Sekirei
SAKURAKO GOKURAKUIN
4

Sekirei 4
SAKURAKO GOKURAKUIN

SEKIREI ④

Gokurakuin Sakurako

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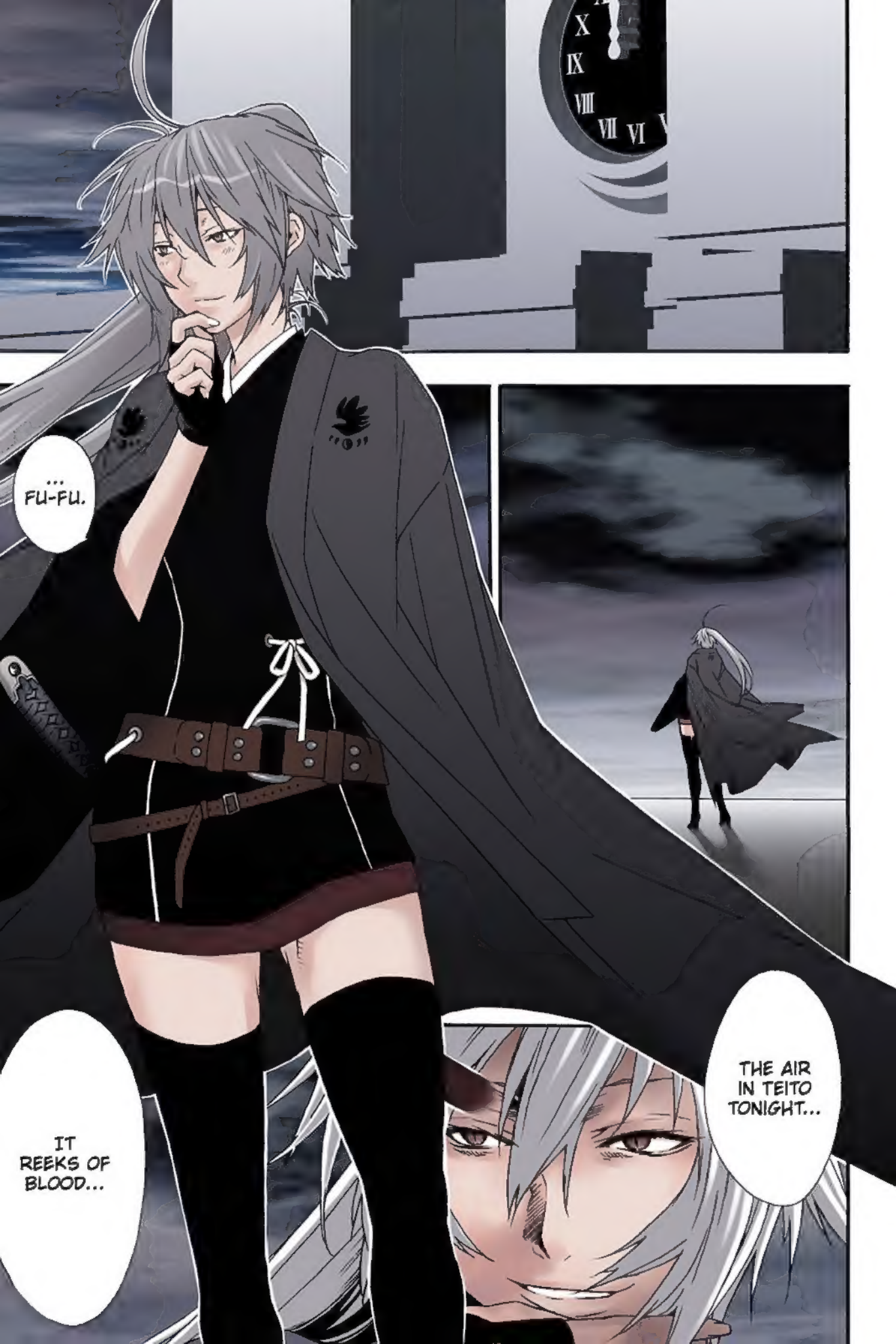
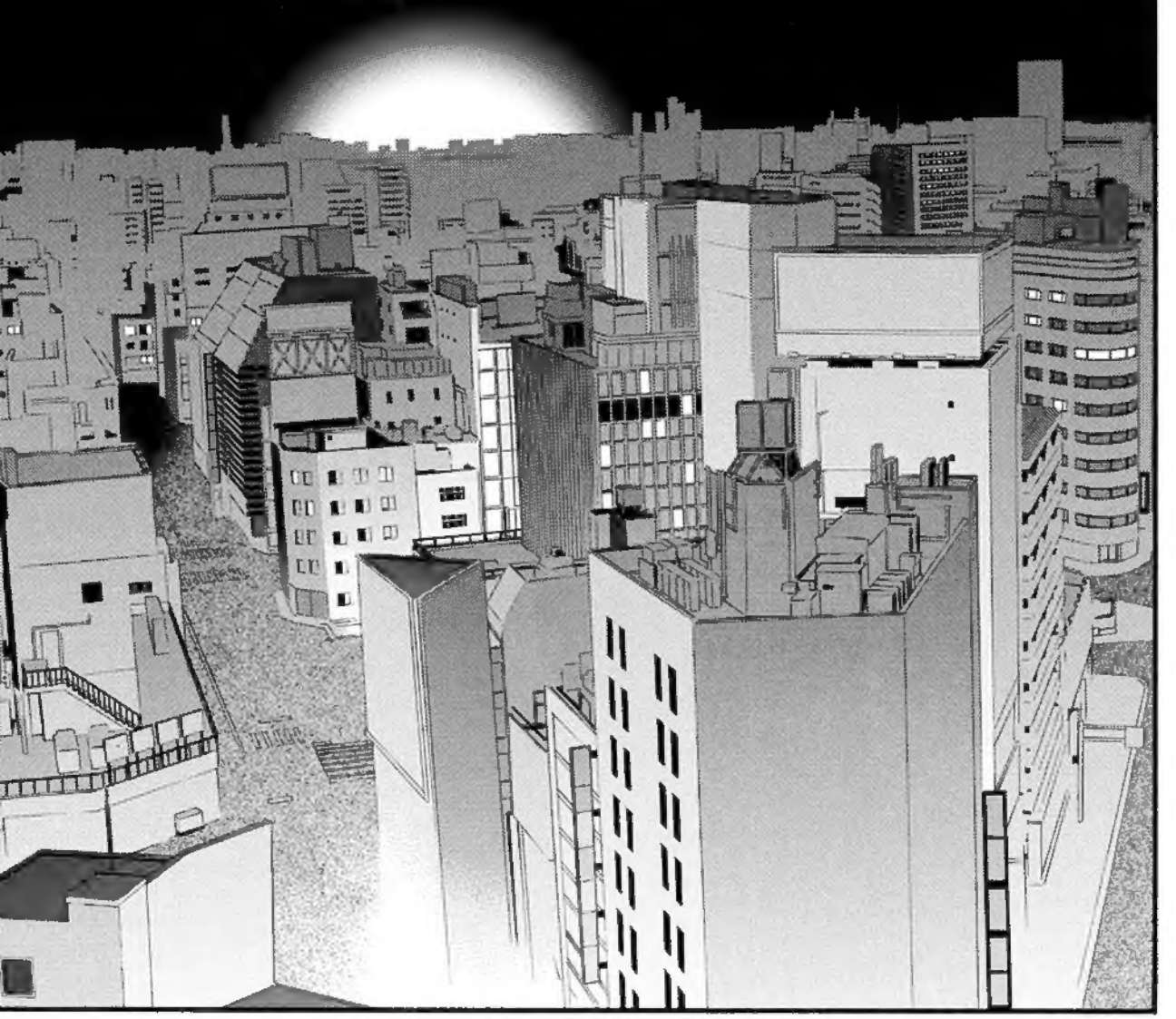

...
FU-FU.
THE AIR IN TEITO TONIGHT...
IT REEKS OF BLOOD...

Chapter 28: Sekirei Dance

Chapter 28: Sekirei Dance

SHARK
MUSUBI
BUNNY
MINATO



SHINK

FWIP
FWIP
STAB
STAB
STAB

FLUTTER
AH.

WRAP
AH.....

SPLORCH

A...
...SHIKA
...BI...
...SA...
.....
MA...

GLOW
BY THE VEIL OF MY CONTRACT ...
... SWEEP AWAY ...
...THE NIGHT-MARES OF MY ASHIKABI .....

INTER-
LOPERS!
BE GONE, YOU TWO!!

CLEANING THE BATH...
ALL SOAKED...
CLEAN PROPERLY OR LEAVE.
KYAHH.
.....
KYAHH.
108

SHOCK
MINATO ...
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE LOOKING...?

SCRAPE
SCRAPE
MUSUBI-CHAN'S IN A SWIM-SUIT...
NEVER SEEN THAT BEFORE.

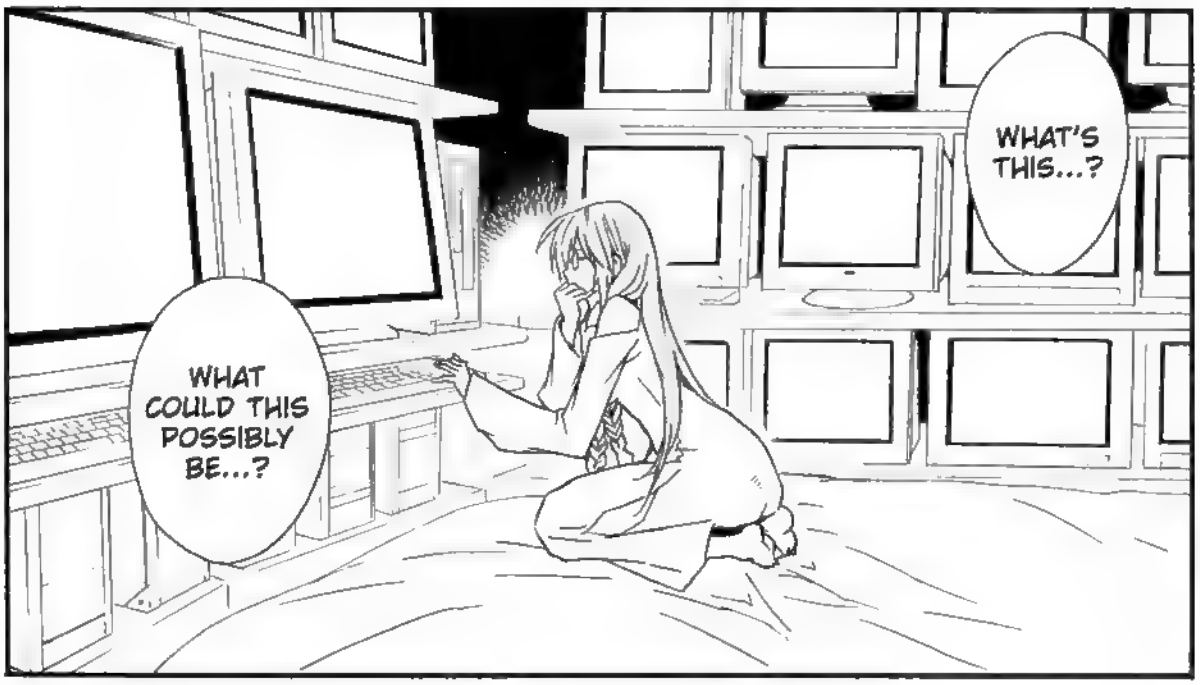
BOING
BOING

...TO OBSERVE MINE...
...Y...
YOU SHOULD FEEL FREE...
BLUSH
IF YOU YEARN TO OBSERVE BREASTS SO BADLY...
NO...UM... AH-HA-HA-HA.

BADUM
EH...

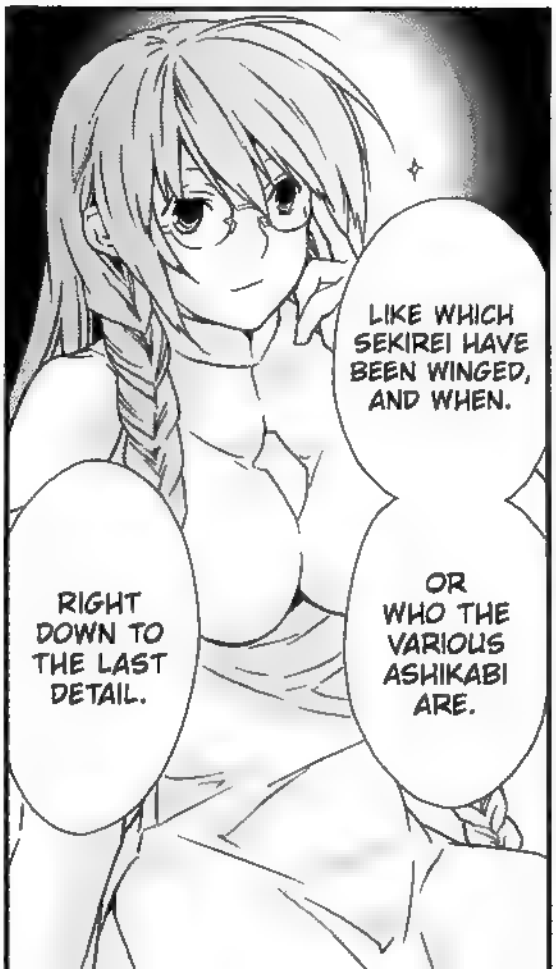
WHOA... UM, KU-CHAN, THAT'S A LITTLE...
DON'T MAKE A CRIMINAL OUT OF ME.
PFFT.
TAKE A LOOK.
109
LIKE WHAT YOU SEE?
FLAT AS A BOARD, BUT...
TUG
TUG

GOOD WORK SCRUBBING OUT THE BATH. ♡
IT'S JUST ABOUT TIME TO EAT.
SLIDE
U-FU-FU. SAHASHI-SAN.
YOU CRIMINAL.
WAHH.
LAND-LADY!!
TH-THAT'S NOT IT.


WHAT'S THIS...?
WHAT COULD THIS POSSIBLY BE...?

CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
RIGHT.
BE THERE SOON.
KNOCK
KNOCK
MATSU-SAN.
FOOD'S READY.
CREAK

MBI'S TOP SECRET DATA BANK. ♡
WHAT'RE YOU LOOKING AT?


LIKE WHICH SEKIREI HAVE BEEN WINGED, AND WHEN.
OR WHO THE VARIOUS ASHIKABI ARE.
RIGHT DOWN TO THE LAST DETAIL.

DON'T TELL ME... YOU'RE HACKING AGAIN...
GUESS I REALLY AM A CRIMINAL...
OH, I CRACKED IT A WHILE BACK. NATURALLY, THEIR SECURITY WAS PRETTY TIGHT, BUT...
...IT LOOKS AS THOUGH MATSU'S HARD WORK HAS YIELDED SOME INTERESTING THINGS.

ALSO, HOW MANY SEKIREI HAVE CEASED TO FUNCTION AFTER HAVING THEIR CRESTS FADE.
AND THE NUMBER OF WINS UNDER EACH SEKIREI'S BELT.
AND SO ON.

ALL SORTS OF THINGS. ♡
GULP.

YOU SOUND PRETTY SURE...
TSUKIUMI-TAN'S OUR ALLY NOW.
I AM CONCERNED ABOUT THE SEKIREI WHO AREN'T WINGED YET, BUT...
SO I THINK OUR BEST COURSE IS TO HANG BACK AND WATCH THE BATTLE UNFOLD.

UM... MATSU-SAN.
WHAT IS IT?

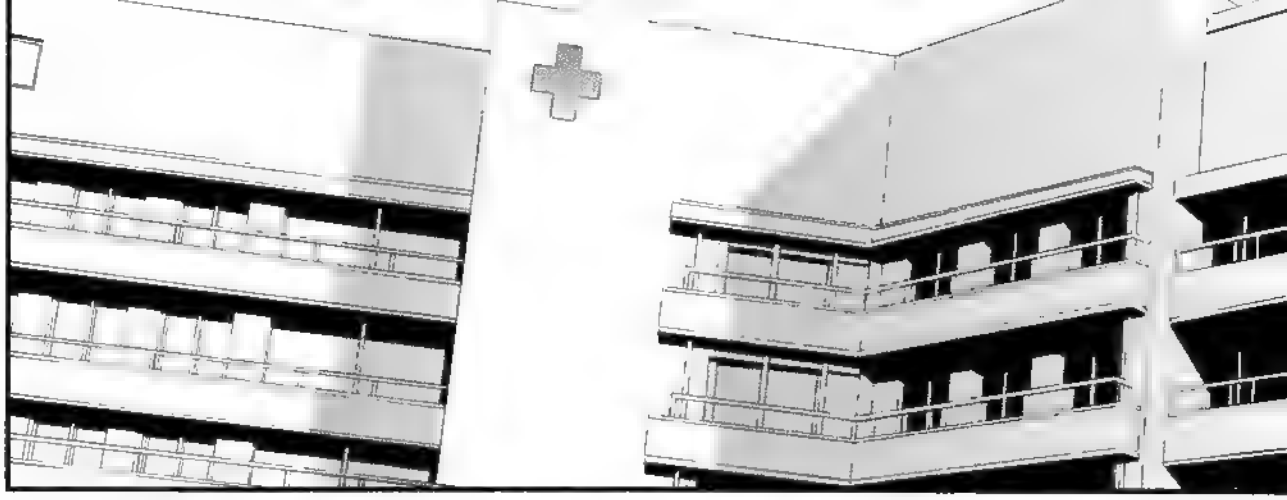
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE THE SEKIREI PLAN ENTERED ITS SECOND PHASE OR WHATEVER...
IS IT REALLY OKAY FOR US TO JUST BE GOING ON WITH OUR LIVES LIKE NORMAL?
YES, I THINK SO.

SINCE THE SECOND PHASE BEGAN...
...A CERTAIN UNIDENTIFIED WINNER HAS PRODUCED THREE LOSERS.
MORE THAN THAT, EVEN, SOMETHING ELSE TROUBLES ME.
YEAH.
TROUBLES YOU?
THERE ARE A FEW UNSPOKEN RULES BETWEEN RIVAL SEKIREI, YOU SEE.
THIS UNKNOWN ASSAILANT HAS DISABLED THREE SEKIREI. THEY EACH BEAR THE SAME WOUNDS.
THAT'S WHAT I MEAN.
W-WINNER?
LOSERS?
IT'S SIMPLY A MATTER OF ETIQUETTE, EVEN IN THIS GRAND BATTLE.
WHEN A SEKIREI CEASES TO FUNCTION, MBI OR SOME ORGANIZATION COMES TO COLLECT HER.
IT'S CUSTOMARY TO WATCH OVER ONE'S DEFEATED OPPONENT UNTIL MBI ARRIVES TO TIDY UP...

FWOOM
AFTER MBI CONFIRMS THE WINNER AND LOSER...
...THE RECORD IS UPLOADED INTO THE DATA BANK...
IT SEEMS THIS PARTICULAR "WINNER" DOESN'T WANT HER IDENTITY KNOWN.
OR MAYBE THERE'S SOME OTHER REASON FOR HER ACTIONS.
EITHER WAY, SHE'S ABANDONING HER NEAR-DEATH OPPONENTS...

IT JUST SMELLS FISHY TO ME.
BUT WE SHOULD BE FINE AS LONG AS WE STAY ALERT.

KNOCK
コンコン
KNOCK
UZUME-SAAAN. TIME TO EAT.
UZUME-SAAAN.
CLICK
カチャ
UZUME-SAN?
?
SHE'S NOT HERE...

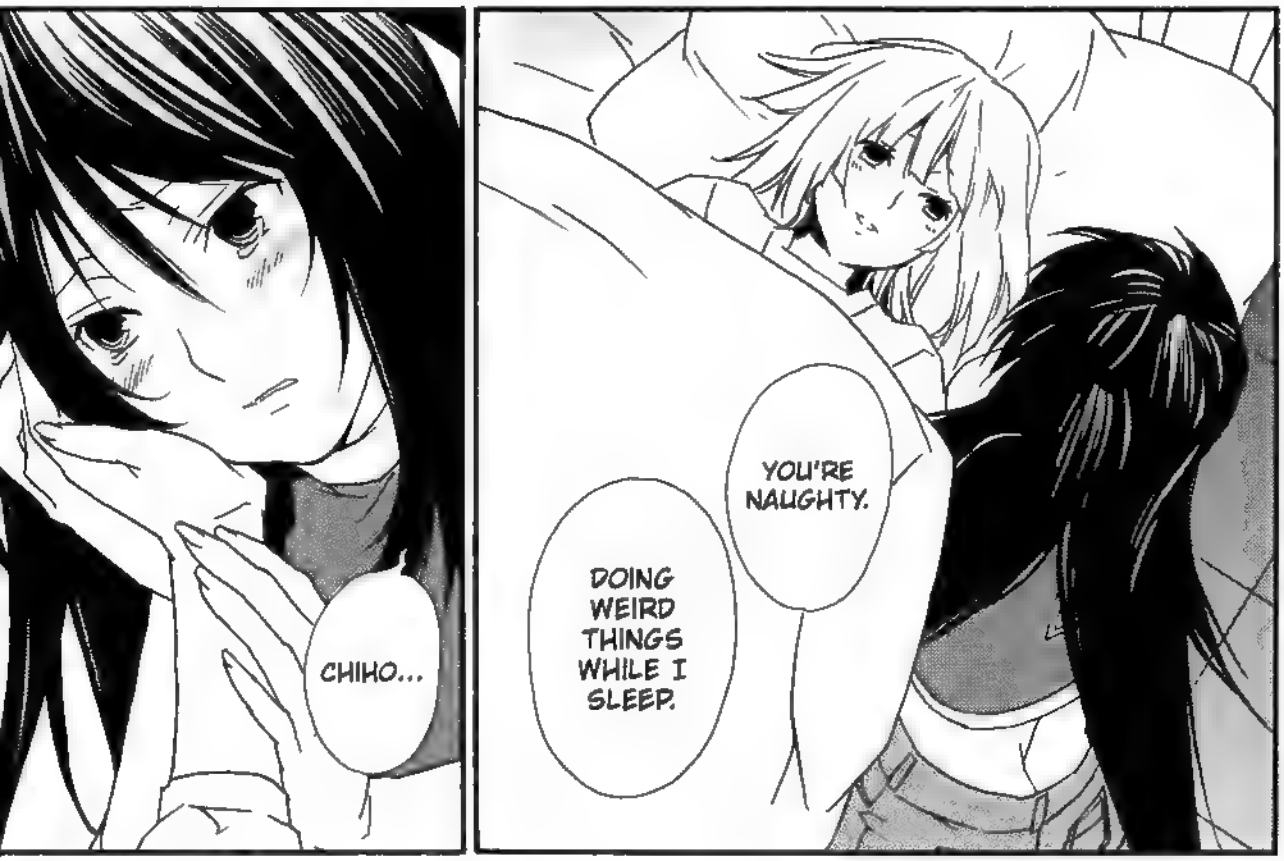


CHIHO.

Chapter 29: Shadow of Darkness

CHIHO.....

UZUME..... CHAN...?


CHIHO...
DOING WEIRD THINGS WHILE I SLEEP.
YOU'RE NAUGHTY.

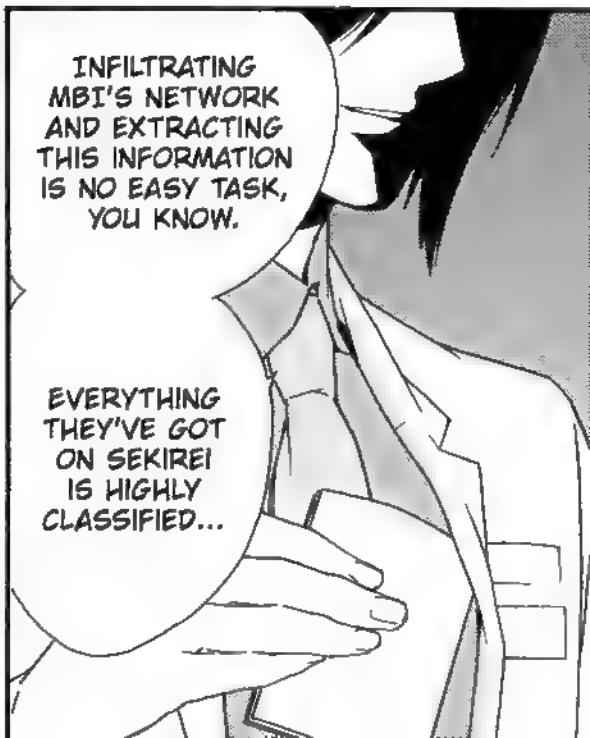
...IT'S NOTHING.
NOTHING AT ALL.
WHAT'S WRONG?
...ARE YOU CRYING...?
BEAM
YEAH! SEE?
...SUPPOSED TO BE YOUR ASHIKABI, BUT...
SORRY...
...I'M...

I'M SORRY...
...I CAN'T DO ANYTHING FOR YOU.
IT'S FINE.
YOU'RE SURVIVING.
THAT'S ENOUGH...
...CHIHO.
SQUEEZE
NO.
KLAK

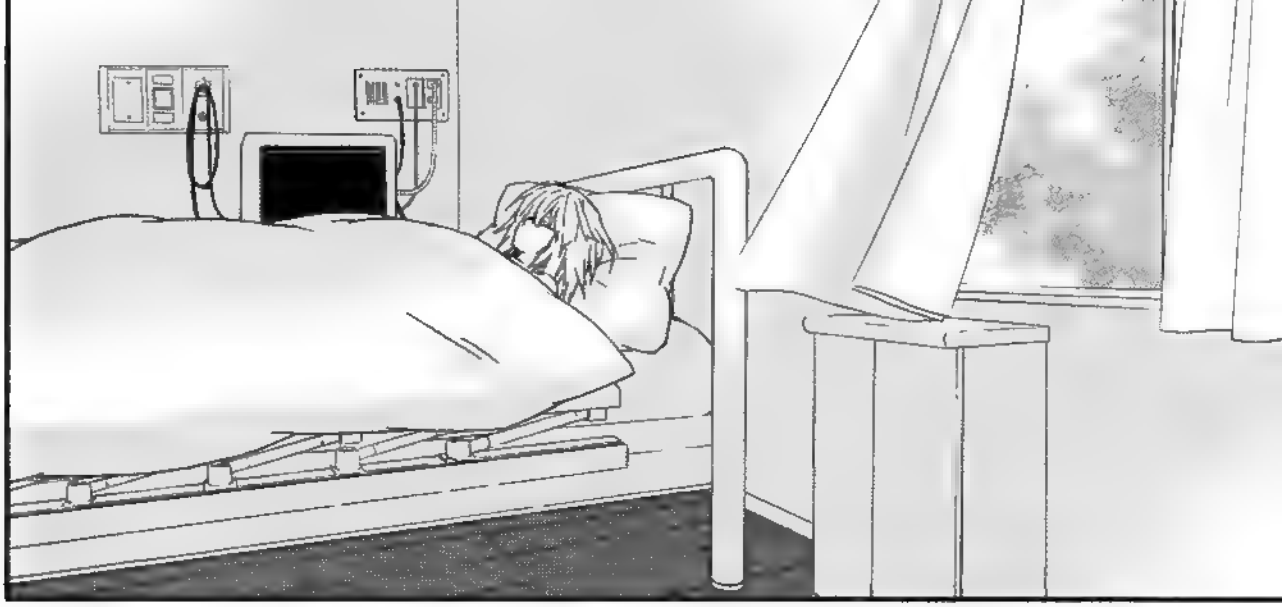
I'D EXPECT NO LESS FROM A SEKIREI WORKED ON BY TAKEHITO ASAMA HIMSELF.
LOOKS LIKE YOU TOOK OUT ANOTHER LAST NIGHT.

WHO'S MY NEXT TARGET?
ENOUGH CHITCHAT.
NO. 10, "UZUME" ...

...WE HAVE THE WHERE-ABOUTS OF THREE MORE.
BUT THANKS TO MBI'S INTEL AND *OUR* INDE-PENDENT INVESTI-GATION...


INFILTRATING MBI'S NETWORK AND EXTRACTING THIS INFORMATION IS NO EASY TASK, YOU KNOW.
EVERYTHING THEY'VE GOT ON SEKIREI IS HIGHLY CLASSIFIED...

NO. 19, "IKI." NO. 95 "KUNO."
AND NO. 3, "KAZEHANA."
AH. NO. 3 ISN'T EVEN WINGED. NO SIGN OF AN ASHIKABI.
SHOULD BE A SIMPLE WIN FOR YOU, NO?
...PLEASE DON'T FORGET, NOW.
YOUR ASHIKABI...
...DOESN'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT.
SNATCH
I KNOW THAT...!!



SEEMS LIKE THERE'S A REALLY DANGEROUS SEKIREI OUT THERE.
THIRD
SECRET MEETING

...THAT'S IT, REALLY.

BUT TRY TO AVOID DOING ANYTHING THAT'LL ATTRACT ATTENTION.
SHOULD BE ENOUGH JUST TO STAY ON GUARD FOR NOW.

RUMBLE
...HEY.
YOU EVEN LISTENING?

SHE MUST BE REALLY, REALLY STRONG.
I HOPE I GET TO DO BATTLE WITH HER!!
I, TSUKIUMI, WILL DEFEAT HER!!
THE BASE COWARD!
SULLYING THE HONOR OF THIS SACRED SEKIREI BATTLE.

A MASTER WHO CAN'T CONTROL HIS GAME PIECES...
I'M JUST REALLY WORRIED THAT THEY'LL GET HURT...
THIS IS NO LAUGHING MATTER. I MEAN IT.
BLAZE
NOOOO!! YOU EVEN GOT KU-CHAN ALL FIRED UP.
I SAID SHE'S DANGER-OUS, YOU TWO.
CAN'T YOU EVER JUST LISTEN TO M—

TAKE THIS SERIOUSLY, MATSU-SAN...
OHH!? YOU DON'T TRUST MATSU, YOUR STRATE-GIST?
WORSE COMES TO WORST, THEY CAN ALWAYS RUN AWAY.
THIS IS JUST ONE SEKIREI WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.
OH, THEY SHOULD BE FINE.

MINATO!

WHAT IS IT, TSUKIUMI-SAN?
I TOLD YOU TO JUST CALL ME "TSUKIUMI" !!
WAVE
WAVE
U-UHH. OKAY.
TSUKI... UMI?
IS IT... TRUE?
YOU ARE... WORRIED ABOUT ME?
EH?
I'M ASKING IF YOU'RE WORRIED.
YEAH. WORRIED. SURE AM.

SIGH...
...
REALLY?
THAT ISN'T SO TERRIBLE.
HAVING YOU... WORRY FOR ME, I MEAN.
BAD..IM
BAD..M
BADUM
WHAT IS THIS?
MY CHEST ...
H-HUH.
BLUSH

BADUM
BADUM
BADUM
HUH?
TSUKI-UMI...
WAS SHE ALWAYS THIS PRETTY .....?

...KIND OF FAMILIAR...

HMM...? WHAT IS THIS?

THIS SENSATION.

THUMP
...SIGH.

I THOUGHT IT WAS MUSUBI-CHAN I LIKED.
HOW WEIRD ...
...I...

SAME AS THAT SENSE OF SECURITY I GET FROM MUSUBI-CHAN.
NO, UH.
J-JUST SMILING, THAT'S ALL!!
NOW WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING ABOUT?

A SEKIREI PLOT AGAINST ME!?
I DON'T EVEN UNDER-STAND MYSELF...
CLICK
WHAT'S GOING ON WITH ME LATELY ...?

AH.
MINATO-SAN. ♡

MAYBE THE REASON I'M FEELING THE SAME WAY ABOUT HER...
...IS BECAUSE SHE'S ALSO ONE OF MY SEKIREI?
EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE SO DIFFERENT.

UWAHHHH!
H-HOW LONG'VE YOU BEEN THERE!?
I JUST WALKED OVER.
MADAME LANDLADY WANTS TO KNOW IF YOU'D LIKE A SNACK.
MU-MU-MU—
MU-MU-MUSUBI-CHAN!!
YES?
R...
SIGH...
RIGHT...
I MEAN, I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING TO FEEL GUILTY ABOUT...
JUST TALKING ALONE WITH TSUKIUMI, RIGHT?
NOTHING TO BE SCARED ABOUT.....
KU-FU-KU-FU.
SOAP OPERA, SOAP OPERA ...!!

EEEK.
ROAR

WHAT WAS THAT SHUDDER UP MY SPINE?
...?

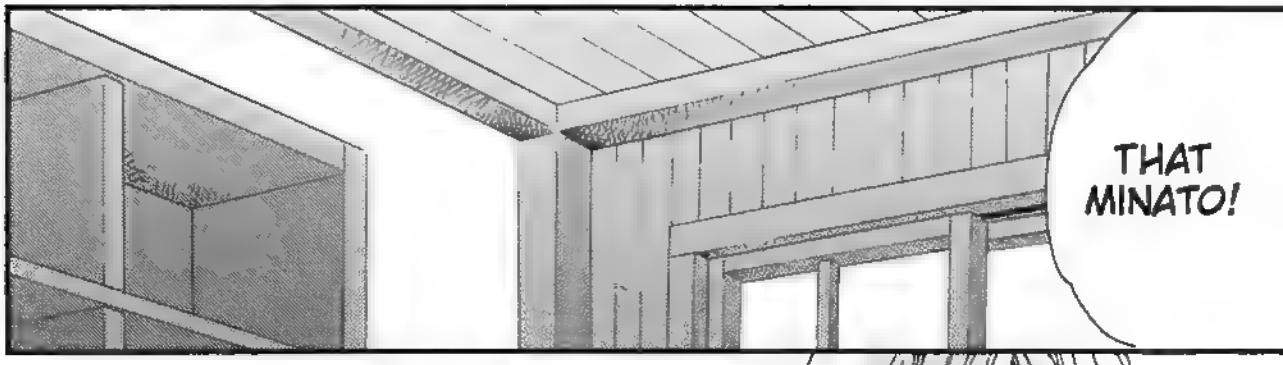
A BLACK ...!!
WHOA WHOA WHOA A G. GRIZZLY !!
A BIG, BLACK, FEROCIOUS-LOOKING...! MUSUBI-TAN ...!!
WHAT'S UP, MATSU-SAN?

MUSUBI-TAN...!
TRULY MIYA'S PUPIL.
PERHAPS SHE'S MORE THAN JUST AN AIRHEAD!?
AH.
WELCOME BACK, UZUME-TAN.
IT'S A SECRET.
YOU'VE BEEN OUT A LOT LATELY.
ANY SPECIAL BUSINESS?
MAN, I'M STARVED.
MIYA. FOOOOOD.

BLOOD ...?
MATSU-SAN.
YOU WANT A SNACK?
?
MATSU'S LOCKING HERSELF UP IN HER ROOM NOW.
THERE'S SOME RESEARCH TO BE DONE.

WHOOSH
STEP
THE WIND...
SOMETHING FOUL HAS STIRRED...

Chapter 30: What I Can Do for Your Sake

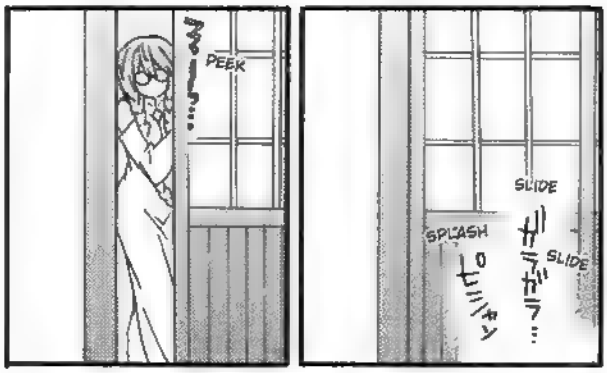

THAT MINATO!

THAT CAD... LATELY...
...HE'S TAKEN TO HIDING AWAY AT BATH TIME.
I WENT OUT OF MY WAY TO OFFER TO WASH HIS BACK, YET...

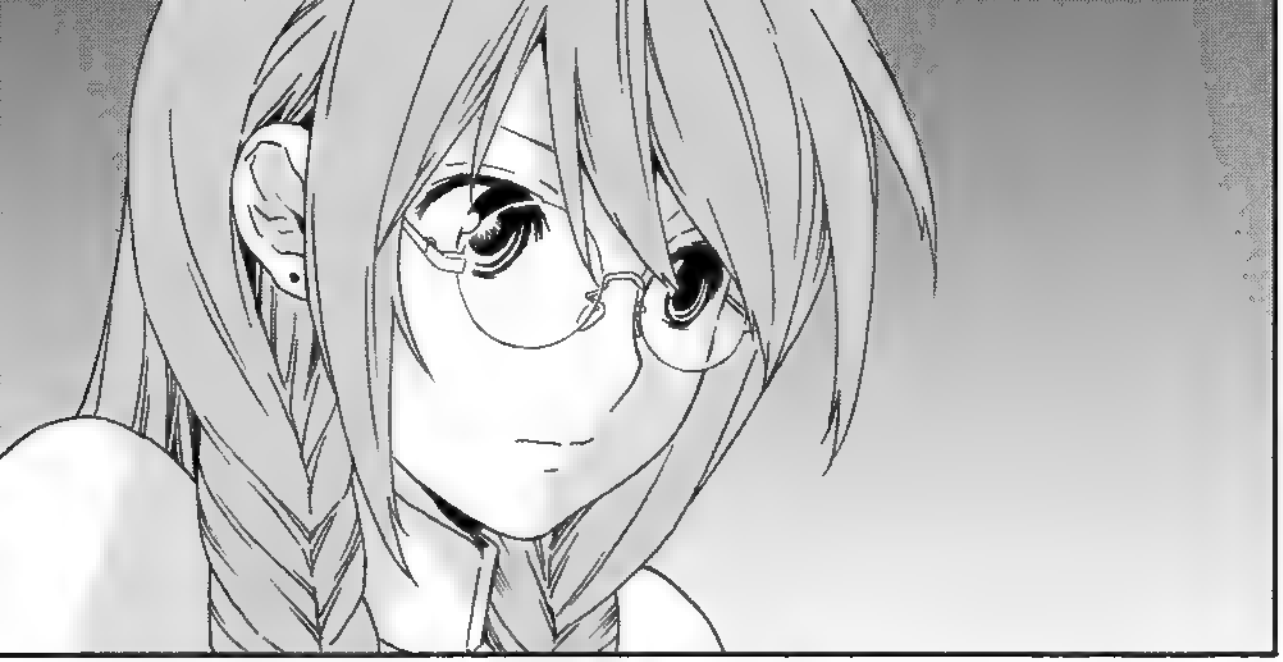
AN ASHIKABI MUST BE RELIABLE FOR BATHS AND CARNAL AFFAIRS!
WHAT IS "CARNAL AFFAIRS"?

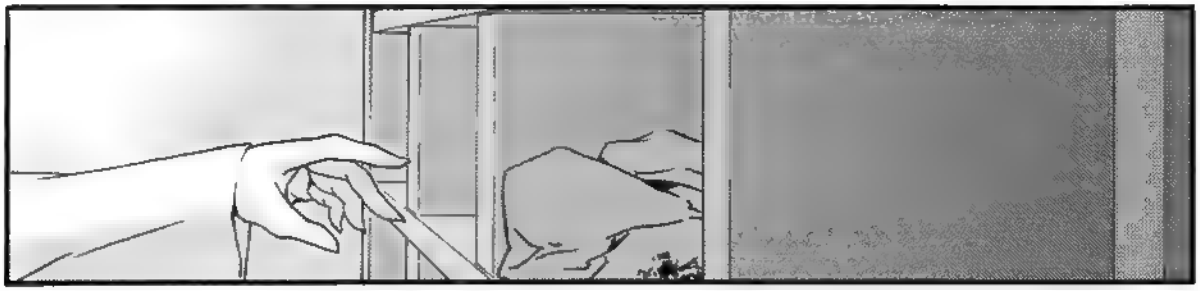
TALKING ABOUT RELIABLE ASHIKABI, HUH?
WHEN A MAN AND WOMAN SHARE A PILLOW.
FU-FU. A MERE CONCUBINE NEEDN'T BE CONCERNED, THOUGH.
WIFE AND MISTRESS, YOU SAY?
POOR LITTLE SAHASHI-CHAN.
MUSUBI IS ALSO A WIFE.
みな！
SLIP

UZUME-SAAAN.
LET ME WASH YOUR BACK.
AH. SURE.


PEEK
SLIDE
SPLASH
SLIDE

ACK... DAMMIT.
BLOOD MUST'VE SPLATTERED ON MY VEIL...
...AND GOTTEN ON MY PANTS WHEN I CHANGED ...





BIG BROTHER.
FOUND YOU.

...ARE TSUKIUMI AND MUSUBI-CHAN IN THE BATH?
NOD NOD
EVERY DAY LIKE THIS
PHEW .....

WHO DO YOU LIKE, BIG BROTHER?

HEY, BIG BROTHER.
HMM?

I...LIKE EVERYONE.
MUSUBI-CHAN AND TSUKIUMI AND MATSU-SAN AND KU-CHAN.
EVERY-ONE.

HA-HA... UMM.
YOU SURE ARE DIRECT, KU-CHAN.
WITH THAT SUDDEN, INNOCENT APPROACH...

...LET'S SEE...

YOU MAKE ME FEEL NEEDED...
YOU ALL CHOSE ME. EVEN THOUGH I'M PRETTY MUCH GOOD-FOR-NOTHING.
I'M STILL NOT SURE EXACTLY WHAT IT IS I CAN DO.
THAT TRUST AND LOVE YOU'VE GIVEN ME...I... SOMEHOW...
SO I JUST WANNA RETURN THE FEELING.

AH.
NAW... HA HA.
MAYBE THIS IS A LITTLE TOO COMPLICATED FOR YOU, KU-CHAN.

KISS
!?

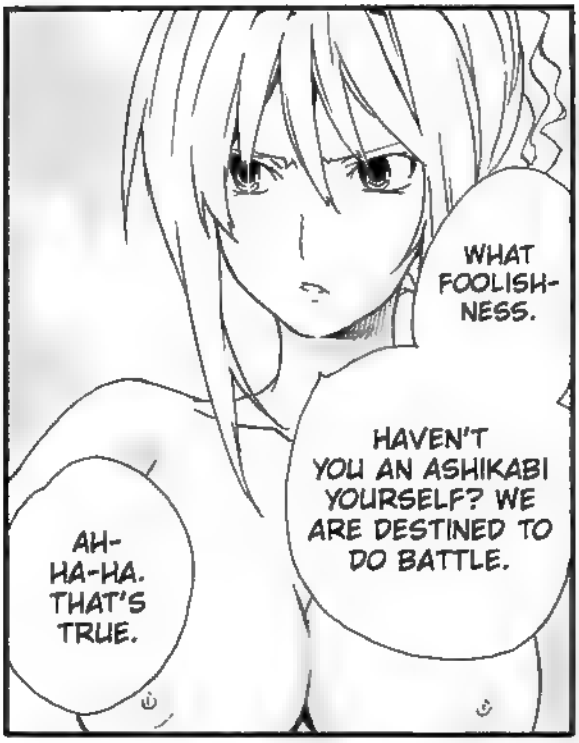
I LOVE YOU, BIG BROTHER.
I HOPE YOU STAY WITH KU FOREVER AND EVER.

SQUEEZE
KU.
KU-CHAN?

...KU CAN BE...
...YOUR WIFE.
AND ALSO, WELL...
...WHEN KU'S ALL GROWN-UP...
SPLASH
EEK.
WH-WHAT!?
WHAT A VIOLENT FEELING! AS IF TO SAY, "THAT BITCH JUST PULLED ONE OVER ON ME!!"
YES...!
MUSUBI FELT IT TOO...!!

YOU TWO ARE A RIOT.
I'LL NEVER GET SICK OF WATCHING YOU.

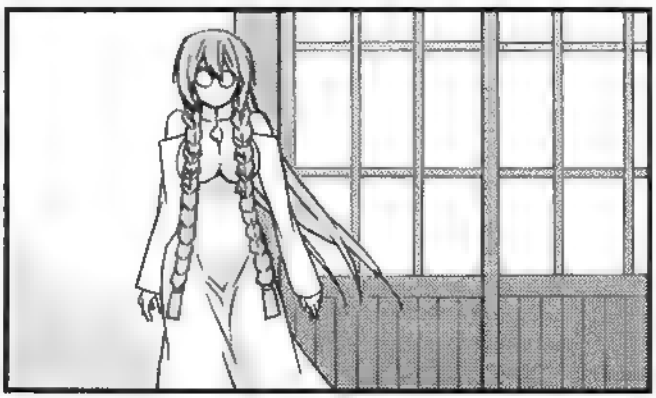
AH-HA-HA-HA.

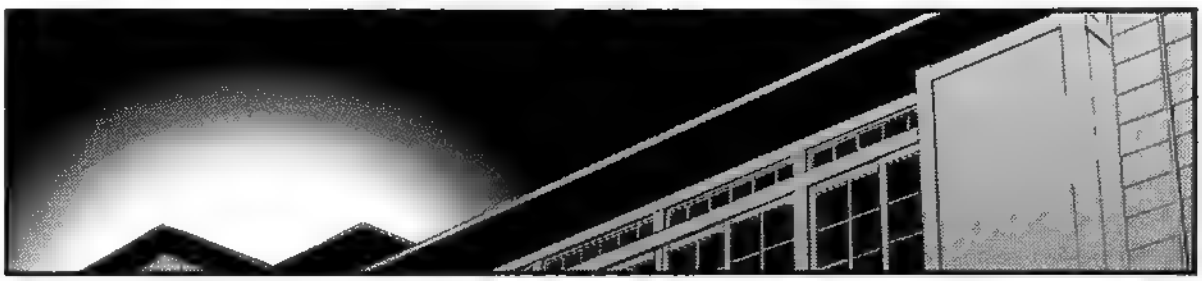

WHAT FOOLISH-NESS.
HAVEN'T YOU AN ASHIKABI YOURSELF? WE ARE DESTINED TO DO BATTLE.
AH-HA-HA. THAT'S TRUE.

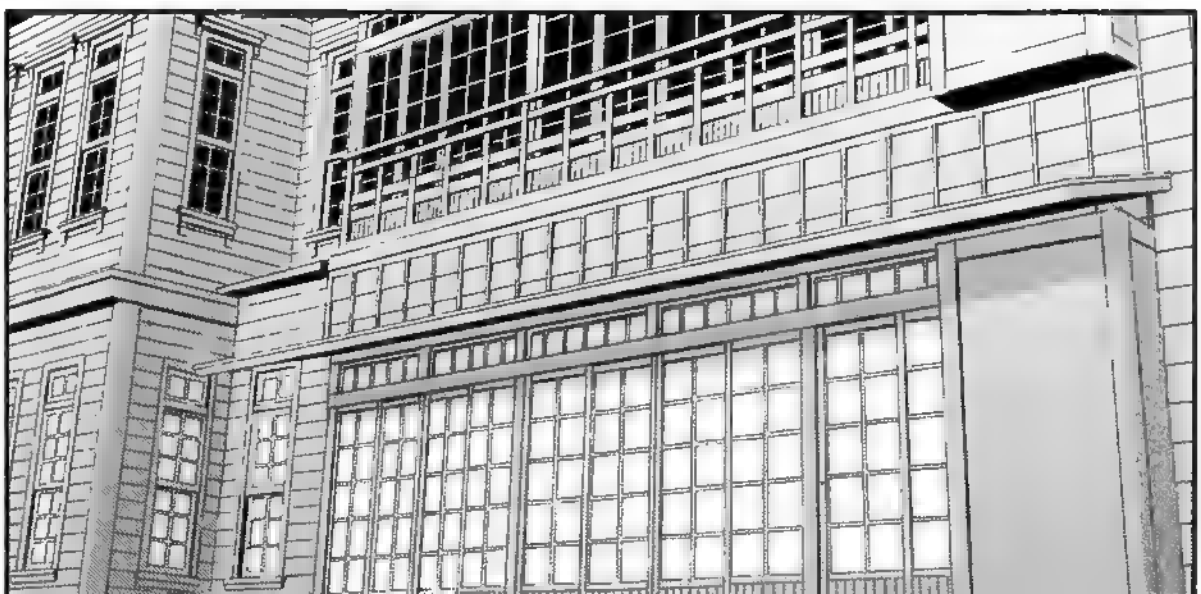
JUST REALLY HOPE WE CAN KEEP LIVING LIKE THIS.
FOOLING AROUND WITH YOU GUYS, HERE...PISSING OFF MIYA...

WE WILL HAVE TO FIGHT, EVENTUALLY...
RIGHT...
YOU'RE RIGHT.

UZUME-
SAN...?







LET'S BE OFF!
YES!
H-HEY. YOU'RE REALLY GOING?
LOOKING TO TAKE OUT THAT DANGEROUS SEKIREI?

...I'M THINK-ING...
...THERE'S NO NEED FOR THE "GUARDIAN" TO BUTT IN.
I, TSUKIUMI, CANNOT ALLOW ONE TO SULLY THIS GRAND BATTLE!
BUT OF COURSE! AS I SAID!!
...BUT...
...BEFORE THAT...
GRIN
SPLOOSH
WATER FESTIVAL!!

LEAP

!
SPLASH
シャア

WHOOSH

ヒロ
FREEZE

YOU PASS.
I LEAVE YOU TO GUARD MY BACK.
...HMPH.

BEAM
ぱっ
EH HEH HEH.

A SECRET BETWEEN FELLOW WOMEN.
RIGHT ?
YES.

WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT, YOU TWO?
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE??
WH-WHAT?

SEE YOU LATER...
AH... SURE.

MINATO!
MINATO-SAN!
WE'RE...
... LEAVING!
... HEADING OUT!

Chapter 31: Sekirei No. 95

LEAD

OOF.
HERE WE GO.
WHAT'RE YOU DOING, MINA-TAN?
UMM... HOUSE-WORK.
BECAUSE MUSUBI-CHAN AND TSUKIUMI ARE OUT.
HEY.

I JUST WISH I COULD BE USEFUL TO EVERYONE SOMEHOW.
WITH TEITO BEING LOCKED DOWN AND ALL...
...WE'RE NOT SURE WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN, SO I CAN'T JUST WANDER OUT TO SOME PART-TIME JOB...
AH. I'LL TAKE YOUR LAUNDRY TOO, MATSU-SAN.
THAT'S NOT LAME AT ALL.
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT, ANYWAY. EVEN SOMETHING AS LAME AS THIS.
BUT AT LEAST I CAN DO THE WORK RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME.
MATSU LOVES THAT ABOUT YOU, MINA-TAN. ♡
I THINK THAT DRIVE IS REALLY IMPORTANT.
DOING WHAT YOU CAN.

AS I'VE MENTIONED BEFORE, YOU OUGHT TO BE MORE CONFIDENT IN YOURSELF.
DON'T INSULT YOUR OWN EFFORTS.
SHOCK
STRIP
THANKS, MATSU-SAN.
TH...
MA—
MATSU-SAN, WHAT'RE YOU...?
HMM?
MY LAUNDRY, RIGHT?
ISN'T THIS THE PERFECT CHANCE FOR US TO "EXPERI-MENT"?
OH. COME TO THINK OF IT, WHILE THOSE TWO ARE AWAY...

MATSU.
HOLD ON...
MATSU-SAN.
COME QUIETLY, NOW, MINA-TAN.
NFU-FU.
SFX: WRIGGLE WRIGGLE
...HUH?
SORRY, BUT COULD YOU DO SOMETHING ABOUT MY PAIN?
WITH THAT SPECIAL CONCOCTION OF YOURS...
NOT AT ALL!!
ACK.
WHOOPS.
DID I COME AT A BAD TIME?

I-I'M JUST DOING LAUNDRY OVER HERE.
SEE YA.

HMM? WE WERE ABOUT TO RUN AN EXPERIMENT.
MATSU ...
WHAT'S WITH THIS LOOK?

MINA-TAN, YOU COWARD.
TCH.

...I'LL IMMOLATE YOU, YOU LUSTY WITCH...
KU-FU-KU-FU-KU-FU.
HMM? WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN US, KAGARI-TAN?

...I DON'T SENSE ANYONE ELSE HERE.
DID UZUME HEAD OUT TODAY AS WELL?
SMOLDER
SMOLDER
WOW. IT WAS JUST A JOKE.

HOMURA-TAN.

SPEAKING OF HER, I NEED TO TELL YOU SOMETHING.

KUNO.
FASTER !!

PLEASE WAIT, HARUKA-SAMA.

ACK...
KUNO!!

THUD
KYAHH.

AH.
TRIP

I'M NOT NO GOOD. I'M KUNO.

WHAT'D YOU EVEN TRIP OVER?
IDIOT. YOU'RE NO GOOD AT ALL!!
WAHHHH!

WHOOSH
!

H-HARUKA-SAMAAA.
DAMN... SHE CAUGHT UP TO US.
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
I DON'T WISH TO HARM A HUMAN.
...STAND ASIDE, ASHIKABI.
HARUKA-SAMAAA.
H-HARU-...
GRIT
YOU THINK I'D LEAVE MY GIRL ALONE...
...JUST TO SAVE MYSELF, YOU IDIOT!?

...IN THAT CASE...
...I CAN AT LEAST SEND YOU TO THE OTHER SIDE TOGETHER.
WHIRL

BI—
WAHHH.
WAH.
KUNO.

BIIIIEHHHHH
COME NOW, MUSUBI!
OKAY!
WH—
WHAT WAS THAT?
!?

HARUKA-SAMAAA. THAT NAME'S SO UNCOOL.
HOW'S THAT? KUNO'S ULTIMATE MOVE:
"CRYBABY SCREAM"!!
EAR PLUGS
...HEH HEH.
AND I DIDN'T CHANT MY NORITO, SO IT'S NOT EVEN MY ULTIMATE MOVE.
AH, RIGHT, HARUKA-SAMA.
WHOOPS.
THOUGHT I TOLD YOU NOT TO CALL ME HARUKA.
IT'S "SHIGI," REMEMBER ...?
CRAP. IT DIDN'T WORK.
LET'S RUN.

SPLASH
KYAHHH.
!!

I'M NO. 88, MUSUBI!
NICE TO MEET YOU!!
I AM NO. 09, TSUKIUMI!
YOU! FACE ME IN FAIR COMBAT!!

WH-WHO ARE THESE GIRLS...?
WAHHH.
WAHH.
N-NOW THERE'S THREE SEKIREI HERE...
I-I'M GONNA DIE...

Chapter 32: Sekirei of Wind

WH—
WHO ARE THESE GIRLS...?
OH.
OH.

I'M NO. 09, TSUKIUMI!
I'M NO. 88, MUSUBI!
WHY?
WHY'RE THESE TWO HERE...?

YOU MAY HIDE YOUR FACE WITH THAT CLOTH, BUT...
...WILL YOU STATE YOUR NAME AND NUMBER?
YOU!
.....
YOU WON'T, THEN?
SUSPICIOUS, INDEED.
A STRONG OPPONENT. ♡
A STRONG OPPONENT. ♡
PUMPED
PUMPED
PUMPED

...IS YOU, IS IT NOT?
RECENTLY, HERE IN TEITO...
...A CERTAIN SEKIREI HAS BATTLED WHILE REMAINING NAMELESS.
THIS PHANTOM... THIS AUDACIOUS SEKIREI...
SHE ABANDONS HER DEFEATED FOES AS THEY BARELY CLING TO LIFE.
I DON'T WANNA FIGHT THESE GIRLS JUST YET...
NO.
NOT YET.
TCH.

IF YOU WILL NOT STATE YOUR NAME...
SPLASH
...THEN I WILL STRIP THAT VEIL FROM YOUR BODY!!

PASS
P-P-P-PLEASE WAIT.
I'M FEELING WEAK.
NOT SURE WHAT'S GOING ON, BUT...
...THIS LOOKS LIKE OUR CHANCE TO GET AWAY.

LABEL ON SAKE BOTTLE: MANHOOD

SPLOOSH
WATER FESTIVAL!
WHAM

NOT BAD, YOU.
BUT HOW ABOUT THIS?

A SEKIREI BATTLE WITHOUT MEANING.
WHOOSH

...WOULD BE TO SIMPLY...
FAR BETTER THAN ALL THIS...

WATER DRAGON!!

!
CLENCH
...TCH.
WH-WHAT!?
MOVE, YOU!!
AQUA RELEASE!!
BURST

SPLATTER
I WAS JUST PASSING BY.
AND I DON'T MUCH LIKE MEANINGLESS BATTLES.....
THAT WAS DANGER-OUS!!
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS!?
SFX: PUMPED PUMPED PUMPED PUMPED
...AH.
I HAD FORGOT-TEN...
BUT THERE ARE TWO OF YOU.
HIC.
I PRESENTED MYSELF FORMALLY AND STATED MY NAME...
MEANING-LESS!?
THAT VEILED ONE IS THE BASE INSTIGATOR HERE!!

SO WHY DON'T YOU AMUSE YOURSELF WITH THAT LITTLE ONE OVER THERE?
SEKIRE! BATTLES ARE MEANT TO BE ONE-ON-ONE!!
OR ELSE WE'RE THE TRUE VILLAINS HERE!!
AH! ♡ OF COURSE.
わく EXCITED わく
YES?
MAY I TAG IN? MAY I?
MUSUBIIII.
JOLT
TURN
UMM.
DO YOU WANT TO FIGHT?

PLUMP
SPARKLE
BOING

EVEN EYES. BUTT. BOOBS.
K-KUNO LOSES TO HER IN EVERY WAY.
YOU REALLY ARE NO GOOD AT ALL.....
N—
NO WAY. CAN'T DO IT.

?
HEAR US OUT.
HEY, YOU.
SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE MORE WILLING TO LISTEN THAN THAT VEIL WOMAN.

TWITCH
TWITCH
THIS IS NO. 95, KUNO.
AND I'M HER ASHIKABI, HARUKA SHIGI.
I'M NO. 88, MUSUBI!
MY ASHIKABI-SAMA IS MINATO-SAN. ♡
BOW
AH...SO POLITE.
SORRY, BUT...
... THIS ONE CAN'T FIGHT.
I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THIS SEKIREI PLAN OR WHATEVER.
BUT WE'RE NOT LOOKING TO PICK A FIGHT WITH ANYONE!

BAM
LET US RESUME THE BATTLE!
WELL! I ASSUME YOU HAVE NO COMPLAINTS, NOW.
MOVE ASIDE, YOU!!
OH, MY.
EMPTY ALREADY?

YOU SHOULDN'T SPEAK TO ME THAT WAY.
...IMPUDENT CHILD.

WHOOSH
WHAT ...?
HOW DARE YOU!?

OKAY!
BIG SIS WILL BE TAKING THIS ONE AWAY FOR NOW.

"HIDDEN FLOWER."
REMEMBER THIS.
THE ONLY ONES WHO MAY TALK BACK TO ME...
...ARE NO. 01 AND THE GAME MASTER.

NO. 03, "KAZE-HANA."
YOU...!!
YOU'RE A SEKIREI!!
BYE, THEN.
AND YOUR PANTIES ARE IN FULL-VIEW. ♡
WHOOSH

CLATTER
CLATTER
SHE JUST DISAP-PEARED.
WHOA!!
TCH...
RECYCLABLES MUST BE PUT OUT ON THE DESIGNATED COLLECTION DAY.
SERIOUSLY. WHAT'S UP WITH HER...?
WELL THAT'S A WEIRD GAG TO GO WITH.
RE?
RE...
RE...
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE

INDEED, I AM A FORCE FOR JUSTICE!!
BEHOLD!
THAT'S ABSOLUTELY RIGHT, TSUKIUMI-SAN.
JUST AS MADAME LANDLADY TAUGHT US!
.....
SHOULDN'T WE BE RUNNING AWAY NOW?

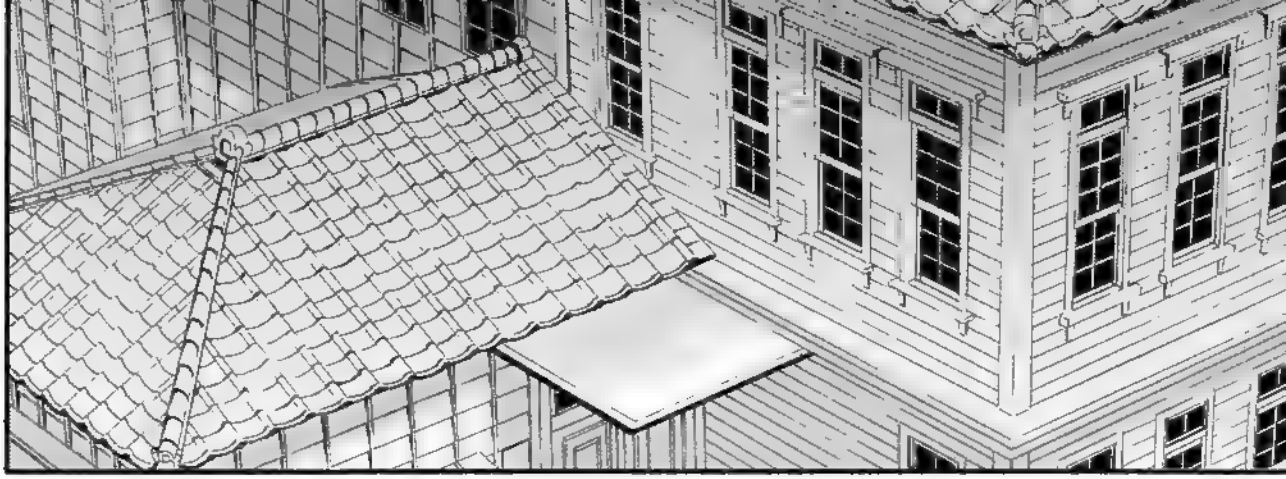
...YES.

NO. 03...
...WAS IT?

WHY SAVE ME?
I'VE SPOTTED YOU BEFORE.
ONE OF THE GIRLS AT NO. 01'S PLACE.
HOW IS MIYA, ANYWAY?
SLIDE
TCH.
I FOOLED THOSE TWO, BUT NOT YOU...
NO WONDER, NO. 03.
I CAN'T MEASURE UP TO A BIG SISTER LIKE YOU.

SCRATCH
NO. 10, "UZUME" ...
...WOULD ONCE MORE LIKE TO CHALLENGE YOU TO BATTLE!

Chapter 33: A Reason Not to Fight



CAW
CAW
WONDER HOW FAR THOSE TWO WENT TODAY.
WOULDN'T MIND IF THEY CAME HOME SOON.

BIG BROTH-ERRRR.
FLOP
FLOP
FLOP
TRUTH IS, BACK HOME, I WAS IN CHARGE OF CLEANING AND LAUNDRY...

MS. LANDLADY.
YOU'RE QUITE ADEPT AT HOUSEWORK, AND I THANK YOU FOR IT.
GOOD WORK TODAY, SAHASHI-SAN.

SQUEAK. ♡
AND YOU WERE A WAGTAIL THE OTHER DAY TOO.
IS THIS COSTUME ANOTHER OF UZUME-SAN'S?
NOD
NOD
AH-HA-HA-HA.
WHAT'RE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE, KU-CHAN? A MOUSE?

MAID OUTFIT ASIDE, WHY WOULD SHE HAVE THESE THINGS?
HONESTLY, I REALLY DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT UZUME-SAN...
MAID MOUSE WILL HELP FOLD.
OH, MY. WHAT A CUTE MOUSE WE HAVE HERE.
SQUEAK. ♡
ARE YOU INTEREST-ED IN HER, PERHAPS?
BLUSH
NO! I'M NOT INTERESTED IN THAT WAY!
COME ON, MS. LAND-LADY!!
YOU BELIEVE ME, DON'T YOU!?
BUT SAHASHI-SAN, YOU ALREADY HAVE MUSUBI-SAN, TSUKIUMI-SAN, AND THE OTHERS.
YOU'RE SOMETHING OF A LADY-KILLER.

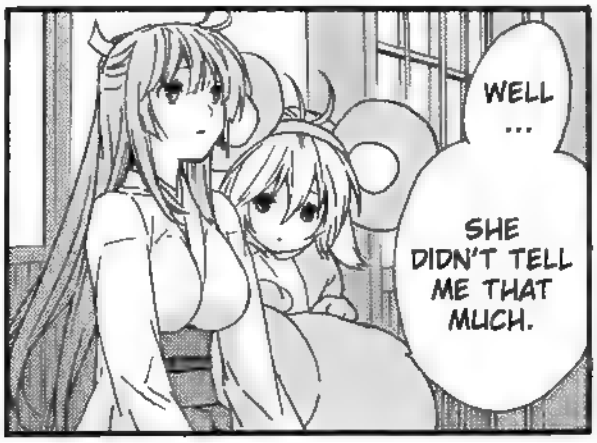
IT'S NOT AS THOUGH I REALLY KNOW HER MUCH BETTER.
ANY-HOW...

BUT THOSE COSTUMES AND FRILLY OUTFITS...
I DO KNOW THEY'RE ALL FOR ONE PERSON'S SAKE.
MEANT TO CHEER UP THAT CERTAIN SOMEONE...
THAT'S WHAT I'VE HEARD, AT ANY RATE.

I JUST WISH...
...I COULD KEEP MAKING HER SMILE LIKE THAT FOREVER...
SO SHE SAID.
IT'S ALL BECAUSE SHE WANTS TO MAKE THEM SMILE.
SHE GAVE ME SUCH A CUTE SMILE.
GET THIS, MIYA. SHE TOTALLY LOVED THIS ONE.

COULD IT BE...?
IS THIS PERSON UZUME-SAN'S ASHIKABI...?

EVEN UZUME-SAN RARELY GETS TO VISIT...
IT SEEMS HER FRIEND HAS BEEN IN THE HOSPITAL FOR A LONG TIME.

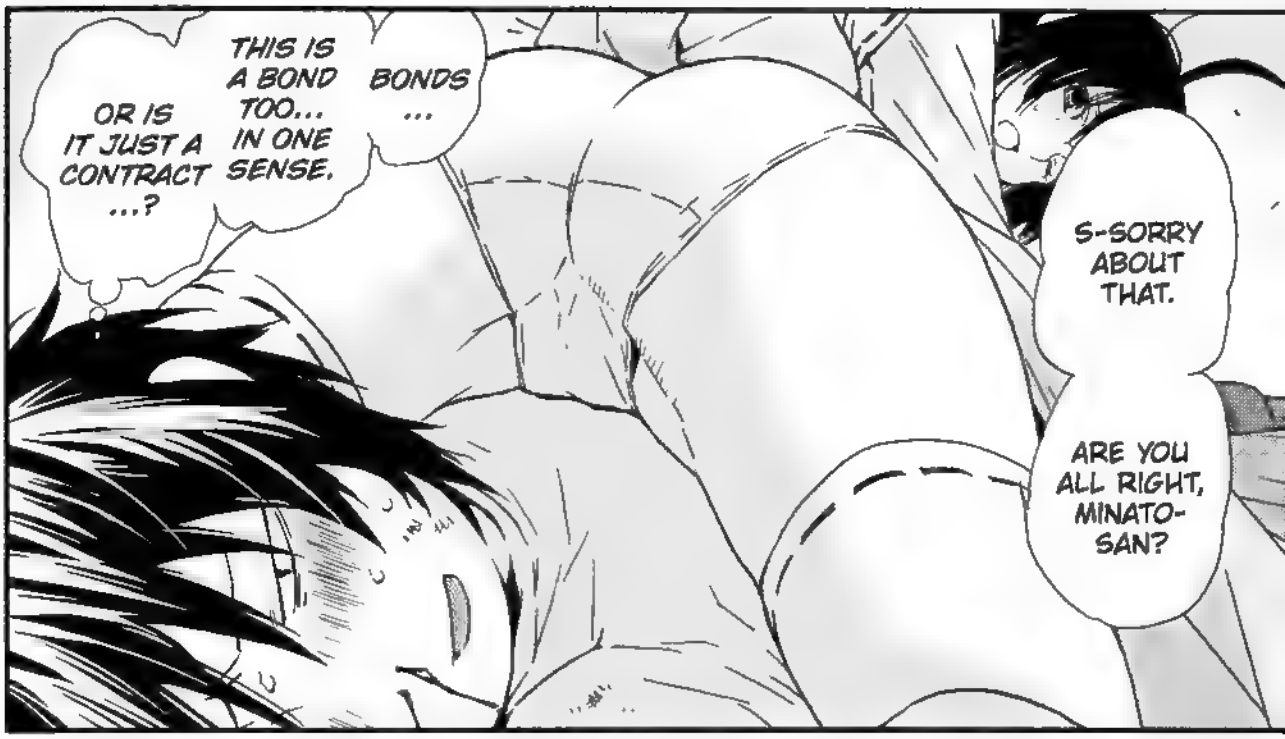

WELL...
SHE DIDN'T TELL ME THAT MUCH.

A BOND...

BUT THOSE TWO...
I KNOW THEY HAVE A DEEP BOND.

MINATO-SAAAN.
MINATO-SAAAN.
AM I IMAGINING THIS?
JUST AFTER TALKING ABOUT "BONDS."
EHH!?
BUT FROM WHERE?
SOUNDS LIKE MUSUBI-CHAN...?
WHOOSH
ABOVE!?

SLAM
BLARGH.


BONDS ...
THIS IS A BOND TOO... IN ONE SENSE.
OR IS IT JUST A CONTRACT ...?
S-SORRY ABOUT THAT.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MINATO-SAN?

I CAME TO GET YOU, MINATO-SAN.
EH... GET ME?
AH.
RIGHT.
WH-WHAT HAPPENED, MUSUBI-CHAN?

AH.
TSUKIUMI-SAAAN.
SO SLOW, MUSUBI.
MAKING ME STAND GUARD LIKE THIS...
HAS ANYTHING CHANGED?

WH-WHAT?
HOW DULL! IF THERE'S NO FIGHT TO BE HAD, I'M LEAVING!!
NO!
NEITHER VEIL NOR WIND HAS EMERGED!

R-RIGHT.
..DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN CHEAT ON ME WITH MUSUBI!!
..JUST BECAUSE I'M AWAY..
MINATO! HURRY THIS UP AND RETURN SOON.
UNDER-STOOD!?
?
THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE WE WANT YOU TO MEET, MINATO-SAN.
THIS WAY!

TH—
THIS IS...
YES. ♡
THE APARTMENT WHERE YOU USED TO LIVE, MINATO-SAN.

EH... BUT WHY?
ISN'T SOMEONE ELSE LIVING HERE NOW?

KNOCK
IT'S MUSUBI.
KNOCK

CLICK
ガチャ…

YEAH...UM, I'M MINATO SAHASHI...
ALSO THE GUY WHO USED TO LIVE HERE...
EH?
YOU'RE THIS GIRL'S ASHIKABI?
.....
GEH-HEE-HEE..
THAT LOOKS MORE LIKE SEO-SAN.
FLOAT
I WAS PICTURING SOMEONE MORE LIKE THIS...
THE LANDLORD SAID YOU WERE SOME WOMANIZING ROUNIN STUDENT.
EH.
YOU ARE!?
MINATO-SAN.
I...
ASHI-KABI!?
SHIGI-SAN IS ASHIKABI TO NO. 95, KUNO-SAN.
MINATO-SAN.

...REALLY WANT...
...TO HELP SAVE THEM.

THINK OF SOME-THING...?
...EH!?
MUSUBI-CHAN?
SO DON'T WORRY, YOU TWO.
MINATO-SAN WILL THINK OF SOMETHING.

...CARE TO EXPLAIN...?
UM... I'M REALLY NOT SURE WHAT'S GOING ON HERE...

...IS A SEKIREI WHO DOESN'T FIGHT...
...THE ONE PURSUED BY THE VEILED SEKIREI, NO. 95...
SO IN THE END...
WHY WOULD MINAKA SEND SUCH A CREATURE TO THE GROUND?
IT'S PLAIN AS DAY THAT SHE WILL QUICKLY FALL PREY TO OTHERS.
SHE'S UNFIT FOR BATTLE.
FAR TOO FRAIL FOR SUCH THINGS.
BE THAT AS IT MAY, SHE TOO REPRESENTS ONE HOPE FOR THE FUTURE...
THAT'S SIMPLY THE NATURE OF THE SEKIREI PLAN.
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK

THE BATTLE AMONG SEKIREI IS ABOUT MORE THAN HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT!
A BATTLE ROYAL, ESPECIALLY, REQUIRES USE OF THIS, NO?
YOU'RE AS FOND OF POINTLESS ARGUING AS MINAKA!
WHAT COULD ONE WHO REFUSES TO STRIKE BACK HOPE TO ACHIEVE!?
PURE SOPHISTRY!
CRACKLE
OH? THEN THAT'S ONE THING WE HAVE IN COMMON. ♡
...EVERY TIME I SPEAK WITH YOU, I END UP IN A FOUL MOOD.
IT SEEMS...

...NO...
WHIMPER
うぇえ

...FIGHT.
DON'T ...
STRETCH
STRETCH
STRETCH
STRETCH
STRETCH
STRETCH
STRETCH
UN—
EEK.
UNDERSTOOD! STOP THAT, KUSANO!!

GIGGLE
GIGGLE
クスクス

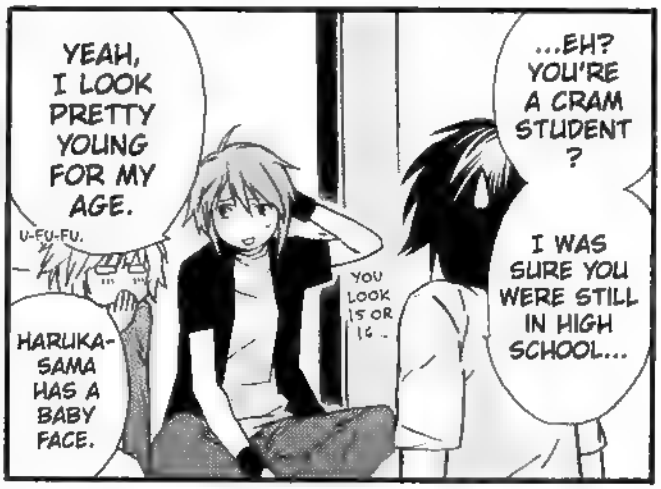
WE'VE LOST...
♪
NOW THEN, IF YOU'RE FRIENDS, LET'S TAKE A BATH.
NO MATCH FOR A CRYING CHILD.

YEAH, THAT BALDY'S A REAL PAIN!!

ALWAYS STORMING IN HERE SHOUTING WHEN WE DIDN'T EVEN DO ANYTHING.
DOESN'T HE KNOW I'M A DELICATE CRAM STUDENT!?

I KNOW JUST WHAT YOU MEAN...!!
YEAH, EXACTLY.
NOD
NOD
NOD
RIGHT? WELL, GOOD TO KNOW IT'S NOT JUST ME.
KIND OF A RELIEF.

CRAM IT, KUNO.
I'M 19. AND A SECOND-YEAR ROUNIN.
TRYING TO GET INTO SHINTOU TEI U, BY THE WAY.


YEAH, I LOOK PRETTY YOUNG FOR MY AGE.
U-FU-FU.
HARUKA-SAMA HAS A BABY FACE.
...EH? YOU'RE A CRAM STUDENT ?
YOU LOOK 15 OR 16 -
I WAS SURE YOU WERE STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL...

GRAB
EH?
SAME HERE ...!!

ONLY DIFFERENCE IS THAT MY SEKIREI IS NO GOOD...
YOU'RE AWFUL. AND IT'S NOT "NO GOOD." IT'S "KUNO."
BUT AS AN ASHI-KABI...
TWO-TIME RONIN? SHINTOU TEI U?
NO WAY! YOU TOO!?
PLAIN
PLAIN
PLAIN
SPARKLE
SPARKLE
SPARKLE

"EVEN A CHANCE MEETING IS DECREED BY FATE."
MINATO-SAN.
MUSUBI-CHAN.
THEY'RE EVEN LIVING IN YOUR OLD APARTMENT, MINATO-SAN.
WE HAVE SO MANY THINGS IN COMMON.
DOES MUSUBI-CHAN EVEN KNOW WHAT "TWO-TIME ROUNIN" MEANS...?
AND IF THEY'RE IN TROUBLE, IT'S UP TO US TO HELP THEM!
RIGHT?
MINATO-SAN?
MUSUBI-CHAN...
... RIGHT.
YOU... DON'T SEEM LIKE A BAD DUDE.
SO I'M GONNA TELL YOU EVERY-THING.
...HONESTLY, WE'RE NOT INTERESTED IN FIGHTING.

IT'S IMPOS-SIBLE.
IMPOSSIBLE, BECAUSE SHE'S NO GOOD AT ALL.
IT'S KUNO.
SHE CAN'T THROW A PUNCH, AND HER ONLY TECHNIQUE IS SHOUTING...
WHICH, INCIDEN-TALLY, ISN'T TOO SHABBY.

NO...IT'S NOT SO MUCH THAT WE DON'T WANT TO.

THAT'S WHY WE...
...WANT TO ESCAPE FROM TEITO...
...AND DROP OUT OF THIS WHOLE SEKIREI PLAN!

TSUKIUMI-TAN, TSUKIUMI-TAN.
AS STRATEGIST, LET ME SAY THIS MUCH.
WHAT?
.....
YOU HAVE TO STOP TAKING BATHS WITH ANOTHER ASHIKABI'S SEKIREI.
HUH? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
BECAUSE YOU'RE NATURALLY DEFENSELESS IN HERE.
WITH ALL YOUR SOFT SPOTS EXPOSED.
YOU TOO, KUSANO-TAN.

Chapter 34: Sealed Teito

Chapter 34: Sealed Teito

WOLF TSUKIUMI

D-DON'T TELL ME.
YOU'RE PLANNING TO ATTACK ME WHEN I'M OPEN...!?
CAN YOU JUST LISTEN TO ME FOR ONCE?
I SAID "ANOTHER ASHIKABI'S SEKIREI."

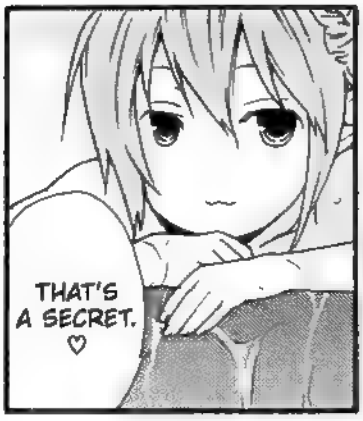
WHAT !?
IS THAT TRUE!?
YOU'RE REALLY AS CLUELESS AS MUSUBI, EVEN...

FOR ONE...
...WE SHARE THE SAME ASHIKABI.
EVEN IF I WERE TO TOUCH YOUR CREST AND CHANT MY NORITO, NOTHING WOULD HAPPEN.

THERE'S NO HELPING IT!

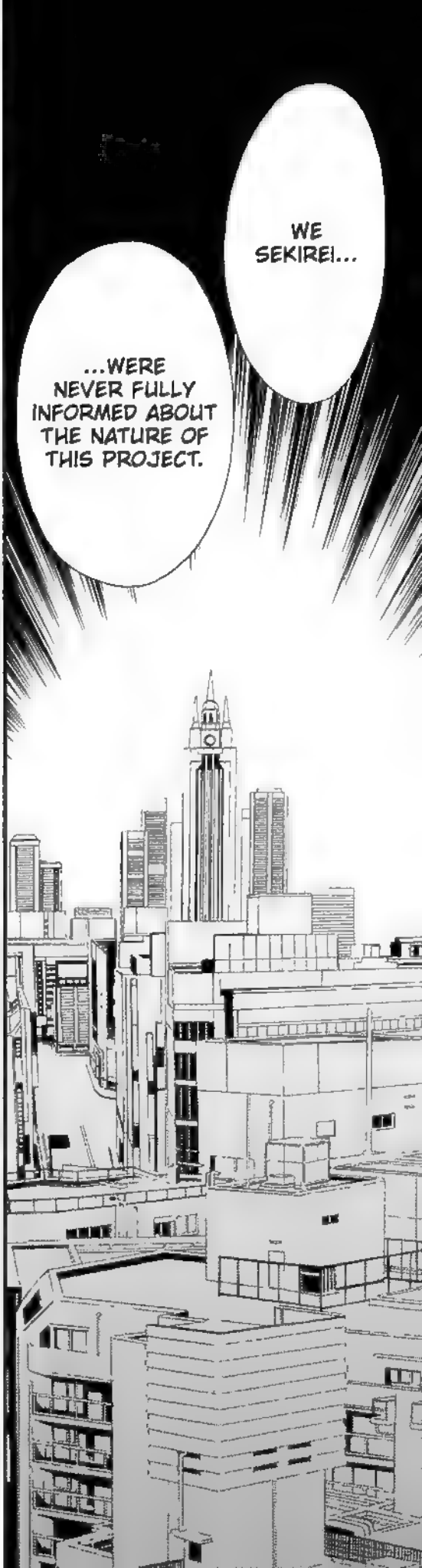
KU-FU-FU.
SO LET ME ASK YOU.
JUST HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW?

HMPH...
INCIDENTALLY, TSUKIUMI-TAN...


THAT'S A SECRET. ♡

...WHY ASK ME SUCH A QUESTION?
DO YOU KNOW THE MOST EFFICIENT WAY TO TRIUMPH IN A BATTLE ROYAL?
BUBBLE
BUBBLE
BUBBLE

FIGHT JUST A SINGLE BATTLE—THE FINAL ONE—AND EMERGE VICTORIOUS. THAT'S IT.
THE ANSWER IS SIMPLE.


WE SEKIREI...
...WERE NEVER FULLY INFORMED ABOUT THE NATURE OF THIS PROJECT.

NOW THAT THE PLAN HAS ADVANCED TO ITS SECOND PHASE...
...MORE AND MORE OF THE PLAYERS ARE REALIZING THAT. THEY'RE SITTING BACK AND WATCHING HOW THE GAME UNFOLDS.
SPLISH
BUT IF EVERYONE ADOPTS THAT STRATEGY, THEN THERE'LL BE NO PROGRESS.
CEO MINAKA FORESAW THIS SORT OF STALEMATE.
SO WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL HAPPEN NEXT?
UNFURL
STOP PUTTING ON AIRS AND SPEAK YOUR MIND!
THE THIRD PHASE.
THAT'S WHAT.

BUT THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT SOMETHING WILL HAPPEN.
EVEN MATSU DOESN'T KNOW PRECISELY WHAT THAT ENTAILS.
THE THIRD PHASE ...!?

I JUST HOPE MINA-TAN TRIES HIS HARDEST...
THE REMAINING TWO...
THAT'S WHY, BEFORE THEN...

BONK
WHAT'D YOU CALL ME?
OH, DON'T MIND THE MUTTERINGS OF YOUR STRATEGIST.
FORGET I SAID ANYTHING, SGT. TSUKIUMI.

DO YOU MEAN...
...THERE'S STILL ANOTHER... BESIDES HOMURA ...!?

A SLIP OF THE TONGUE, MATSU?
WELL, I SUSPECTED YOU MIGHT BE THINKING AS MUCH.
WHO ARE YOU CALLING OGRE?
SGT. OGRE, THEN. ♡

AND I WON'T LET THIS MOVE TO THE THIRD PHASE.
BUT I WON'T LET THINGS GO AS YOU'RE HOPING.

BECAUSE BEFORE THAT...
...I'M GOING TO KILL MINAKA.
ROLLER COASTER
WATER DRAGON
SPLASH
KAGARI-TAN...?
EH...!?
DID YOU JUST SAY...?

IF YOU WANT TO LEAVE...
...WHY NOT LEAVE ...?
THAT'S RIGHT.
WE WANT TO GET OUT OF TEITO.
SWISH
YOU MEAN YOU DON'T KNOW!?
MBI'S CHOPPERS ARE PATROLLING TEITO DAY AND NIGHT.

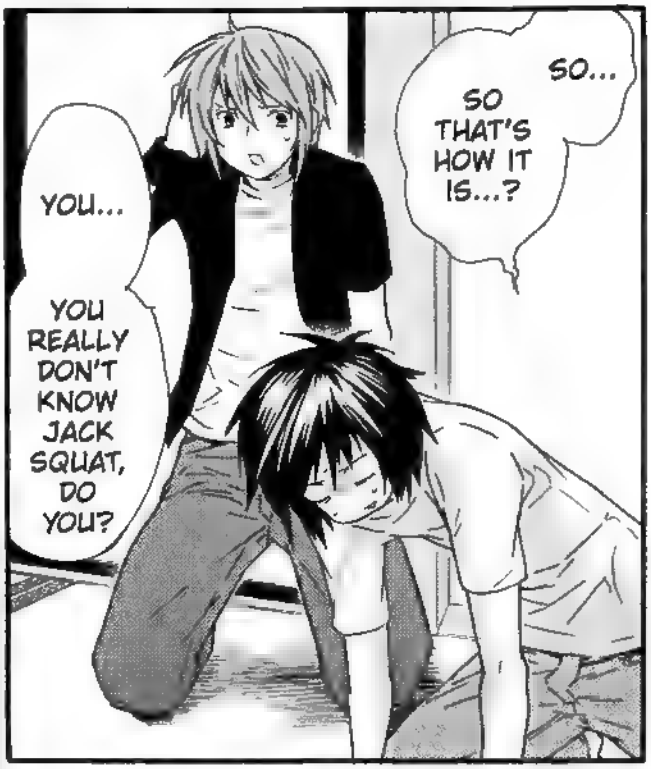
THE TRAIN STATIONS AND AIRPORTS ARE SWARMING WITH MBI'S PRIVATE ARMY.
AND THE MAIN ROADS ARE FILLED WITH THEIR ARMORED VEHICLES.
THERE'S EVEN A BARRICADE AT THE PREFEC-TURAL BORDER!!
SIGN ENTRANCE/EXIT
M.B.I
SERVICE

AND THE REASON FOR HAVING THE WHOLE CITY ON LOCKDOWN...
YOU'RE SAYING YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW?
N-NO, SORRY.

IT'S ALL TO KEEP US...
TO KEEP US ASHIKABI AND OUR SEKIREI FROM FLEEING TEITO...!!

SHINTOU TEITO...
...IS ABOUT TO BECOME A BATTLE-GROUND FOR SEKIREI ...!!

SPARKLE キラ
SPARKLE キラ
SPARKLE キラ
SPARKLE キラ


SO...
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS...?
YOU...
YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW JACK SQUAT, DO YOU?

PLAIN じめ
PLAIN じめ
PLAIN じめ
PLAIN じめ

TUG
GEEZ... I'M SORRY.
FOR BEING SO BLASÉ.
LUCKY BASTARD.
ONLY REASON YOU CAN BE ALL NONCHALANT IS 'COS YOU'VE GOT AN AWESOME SEKIREI.
YOU... KISSED ME.
YOU CALLED ME "MY GIRL."

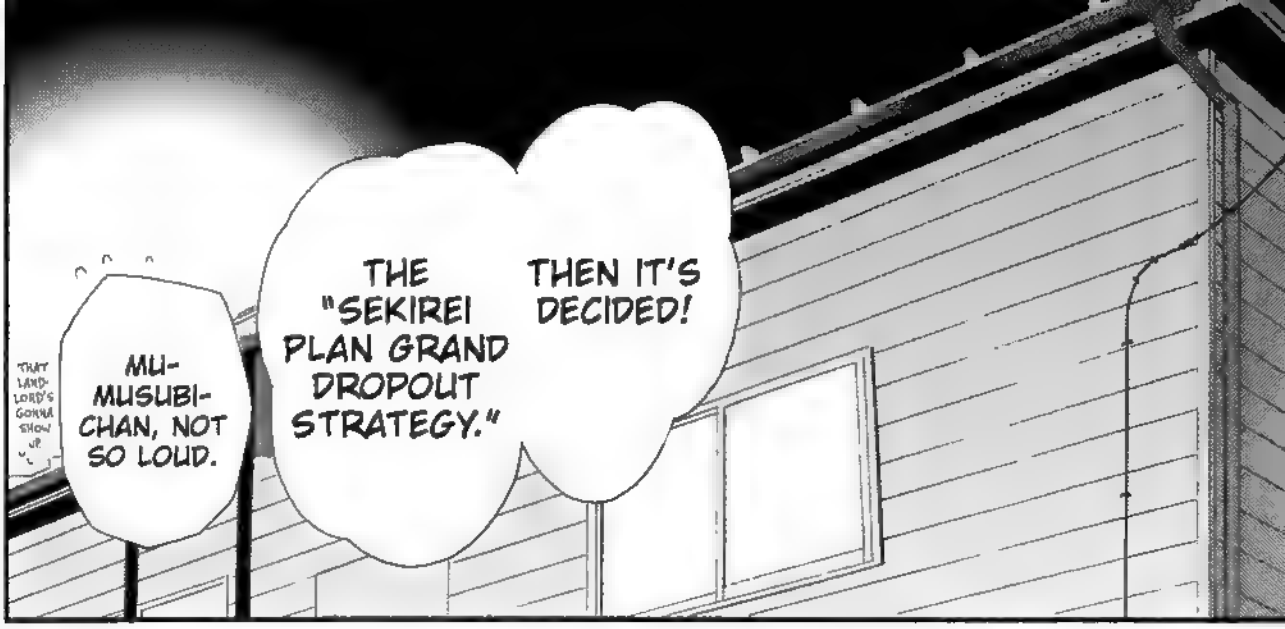
KUNO-SAN.
TENSE
NO MORE COMPARING. I PROMISE!
AW, COME ON.
I SAID I WAS SORRY!!
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?
...I...
I JUST WANT TO BE WITH HARUKA-SAMA...

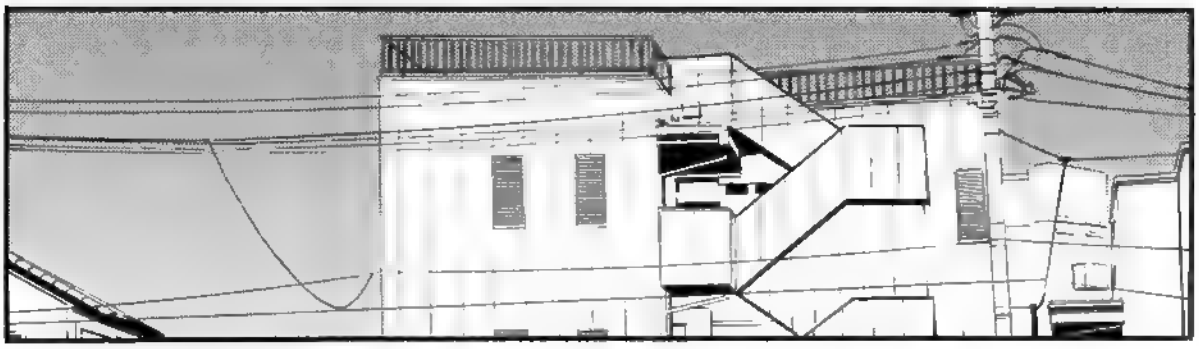
BUT... I...
I'M... S-SO WEAK...
...I CAN'T PROTECT ANYONE OR ANY-THING...
...AS LONG AS WE'RE IN TEITO...
NOT HARUKA-SAMA... NOT MY SEKIREI CREST...
YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT!
MU-MUSUBI-CHAN?
WE'LL GIVE IT OUR ALL!!
THEN LET'S HELP YOU RUN AWAY!
AS LONG AS YOU HOLD SOMEONE DEAR TO YOUR HEART...
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU'RE WEAK AND HELPLESS.
...YOUR SPIRIT CAN'T BE BROKEN!

AND EVEN IF THAT VEILED WOMAN SHOWS UP AGAIN...EVEN IF YOU LOSE TERRIBLY AGAIN...!
...MUSUBI WILL DEFINITELY FIND A WAY TO HELP YOU TWO GET AWAY!
MUSUBI-CHAN...!
THAT'S KIND OF A HARSH WAY TO PUT IT...!!

I GET WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, MUSUBI-CHAN.
YEAH.
I WANNA HELP THEM TOO.

IF THE TWO OF YOU REALLY WANT TO STAY TOGETHER...
...THEN IT LOOKS LIKE FLEEING TEITO IS YOUR BEST OPTION.
GRAB
I'VE GOT NO ONE ELSE TO COUNT ON HERE.
...PLEASE.
NO FRIENDS TO SPEAK OF.
AH... RIGHT.


THAT LANDLORD'S GONNA SHOW UP
MU-MUSUBI-CHAN, NOT SO LOUD.
THE "SEKIREI PLAN GRAND DROPOUT STRATEGY."
THEN IT'S DECIDED!



WONDER IF TSUKIUMI'LL BE MAD...

WE'LL BE GETTING HOME PRETTY LATE, HUH.
YES.

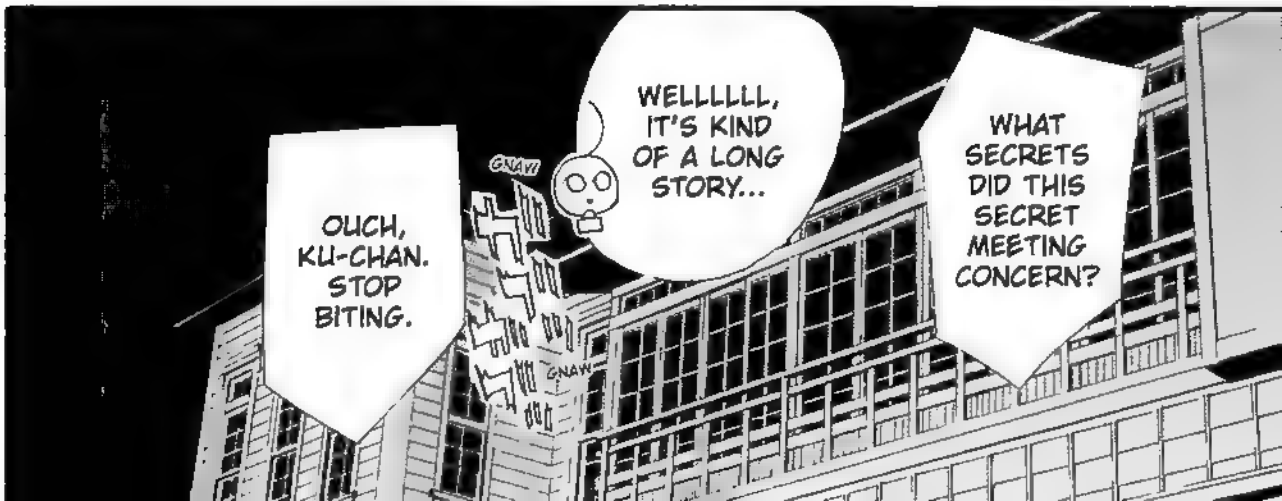
YOU'RE LATE, MINATO !!

NO.
RIGHT, MUSUBI-CHAN?

MINATO-SAN AND I WERE JUST HAVING A SECRET MEETING. ♡

COULD IT BE THAT YOU WERE OFF SOMEWHERE DOING SECRET THINGS WITH MUSUBI?
N- NOTHING LIKE THAT AT ALL.

TWITCH
MINATO, YOUUUU!
N-NO, WAIT...
COME ON, MUSUBI-CHAN. EXPLAIN TO THEM...
GNAW
GNAW
THAT HURTS, KU-CHAN.


WHAT SECRETS DID THIS SECRET MEETING CONCERN?
WELLLLLL, IT'S KIND OF A LONG STORY...
GNAW!
OUCH, KU-CHAN. STOP BITING.
GNAW

Chapter 35: Veil and Wind

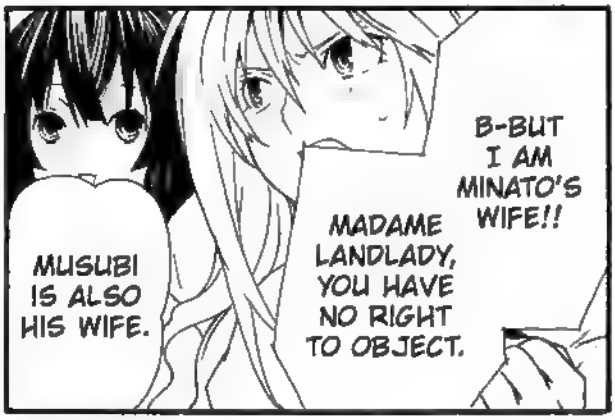
THIS MAY SEEM ABRUPT, BUT...
...I'M SPLITTING YOU ALL UP.

UM...MS. LANDLADY, WHAT'S THAT MEAN...?
SORRY IF THIS SEEMS SUDDEN.

BUT IT'S BEEN WEIGHING ON MY MIND FOR A WHILE NOW.
AND I REALLY DO THINK IT IS A PROBLEM...

AH-HA-HA...
A-ALL WE DO IS SLEEP. NOTHING WEIRD, I SWEAR.
THAT IS TO SAY.
...FOR YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN TO BE SHARING THE SAME FUTON.

PROPRIETY IS IMPORTANT.
BE THAT AS IT MAY, WE HAVE TO THINK ABOUT LITTLE KU-CHAN HERE.
KU'S ALSO A WIFE.


MUSUBI IS ALSO HIS WIFE.
MADAME LANDLADY, YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO OBJECT.
B-BUT I AM MINATO'S WIFE!!

FEAR POLITICSSSSS
WOULDN'T YOU AGREE?
THOSE WHO DON'T PAY RENT ARE IN NO POSITION TO COMPLAIN. ♡

S-SORRY.
I KNOW OUR LITTLE FAMILY JUST KEEPS GROWING.
U-FU-FU.
YOU'RE MORE FREE-LOADERS THAN RENTERS AT THIS POINT.
AND I KNOW I'VE ONLY BEEN PAYING MY OWN SHARE OF THE RENT.
UHHH ...
MS. LAND-LADY'S SO STRICT.
...BUT IN ONE SENSE...
...I SEE THESE "SEKIREI" AS TAKEHITO-SAN'S CHILDREN.
SHOCK
HOW AM I THE ONLY VILLAIN HERE?
SO IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT I WOULD WANT TO PROTECT THEM FROM THEIR ANIMALISTIC TOXIKABI.

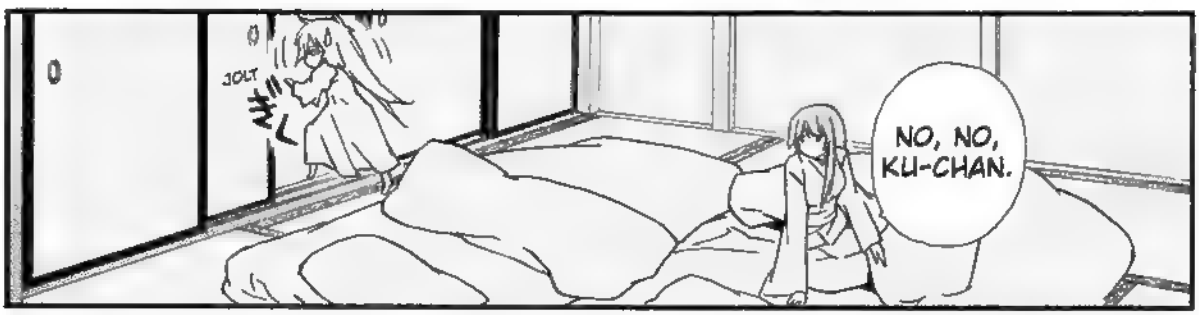
SILENT
しーん
SHINE
カラン
THE NUISANCES ARE OUT OF THE WAY.
THIS IS MY CHANCE TO "EXPERIMENT."
YOU TOO, MATSU-SAN.
BE A GOOD GIRL AND SLEEP IN YOUR OWN ROOM.
... YEAH.

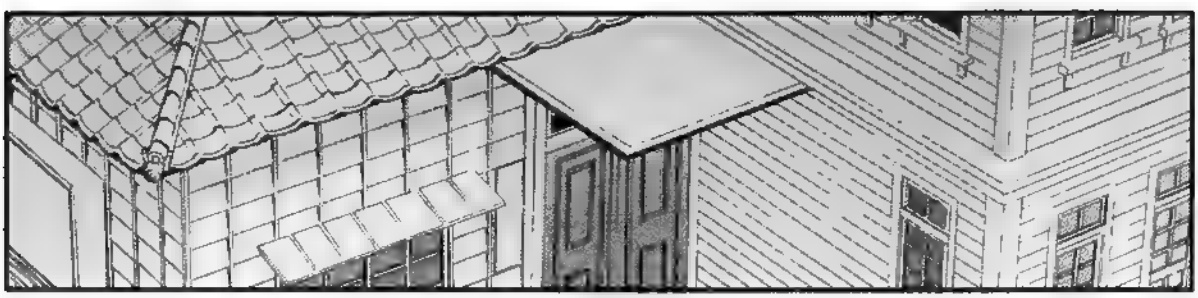
IZUMO INN 2F LAYOUT
201
MATSU'S MYSTERY ROOM
TO 1F
202
MINATO
203
UZUME
204
NUSUBI
TSUKI-UMI
KU'S IN MS. LANDLADY'S ROOM ON THE FIRST FLOOR.
SHE STOLE ME AWAY.
...BEEN A WHILE SINCE I SLEPT ALONE.

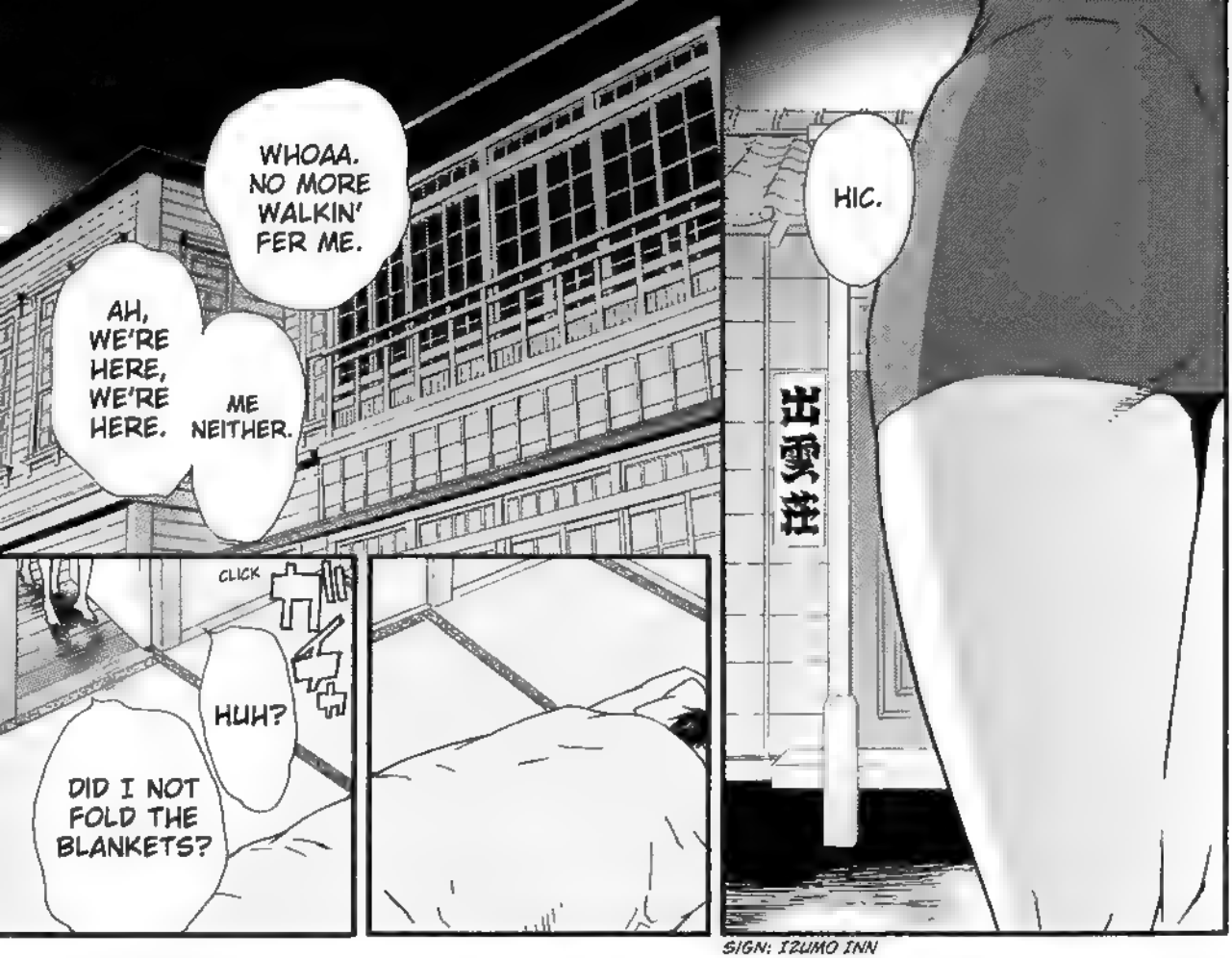
IT KIND OF SUCKS...
I MEAN, IT'S A LITTLE LONELY NOW.
BUT AT LEAST I'LL GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP...
YAWN

SAME TO YOU, TSUKIUMI-SAN. ♡
DON'T YOU DARE SNEAK OVER TO HIM.

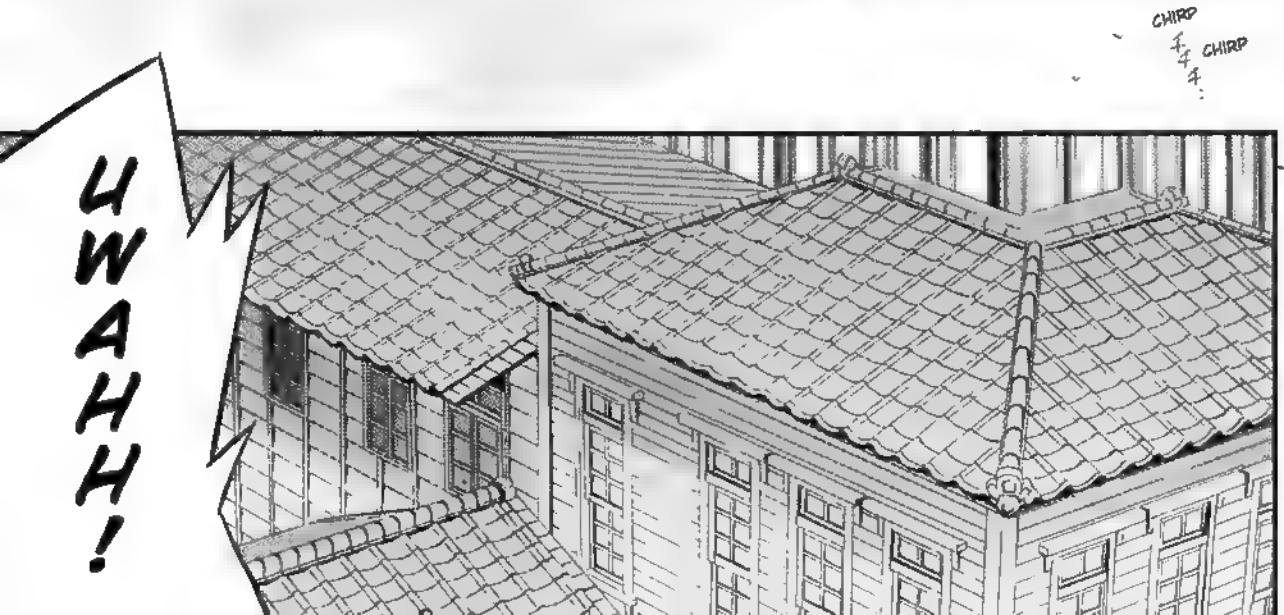
YES?
...MUSUBI.


JOLT
NO, NO, KU-CHAN.





SIGN: IZUMO INN



...WHO'S THIS...?
UZUME-SAN?
...AND...
YEAH, CHIHO. LEMME TELL YOU A STORY.
SQUIRM

BAM
WHAT'S WRONG, MINATO?
MINATO-SAN.
AH...
HUHH?
SO NOISY, ALL OF YOU.
MINATOOOOO!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
NO... UMM...I SWEAR I'VE GOT NO CLUE WHAT'S HAPPENING...
...UGH.
OWWW ...
GUESS I DRANK TOO MUCH YESTERDAY.

HUH? WHY'M I NAKED!?
AND WHERE AM I?

HUH?

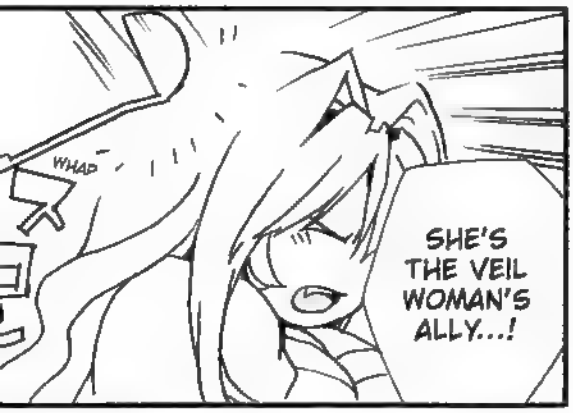
N-NO. 03!?
THROB
THROB
COME ON... KEEP THE VOLUME DOWN...
OWW...

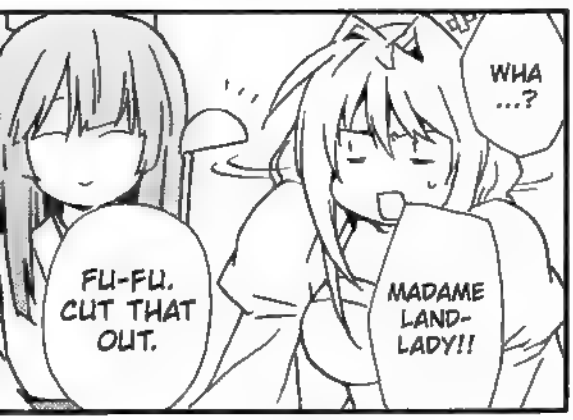
UM...
ARE YOU OKAY?

A-AND WHO ARE YOU, EXACTLY...?

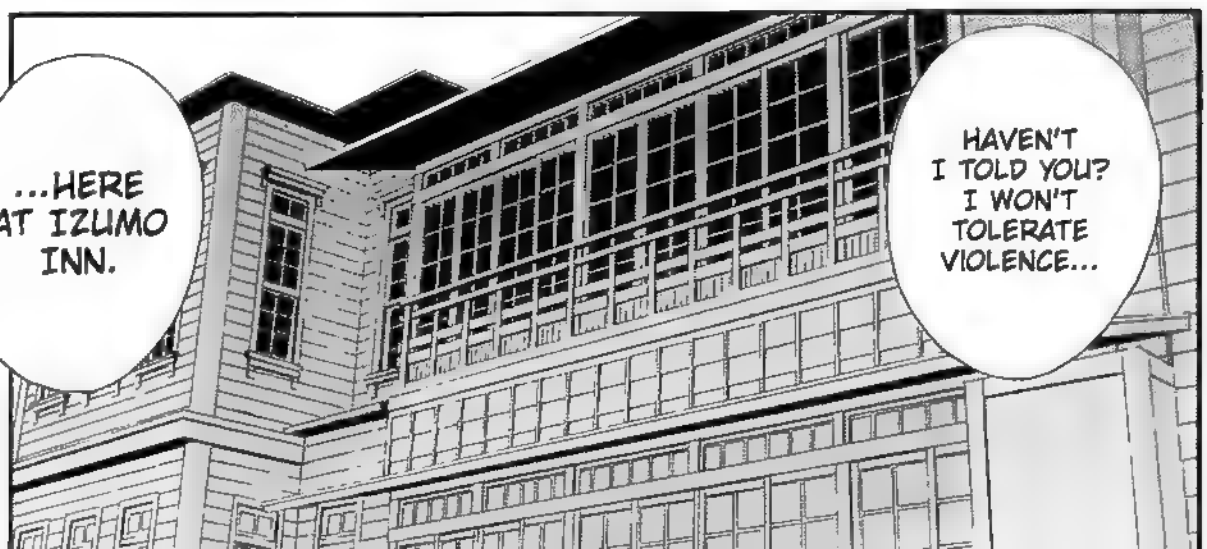
YOU...
...DON'T TELL ME...
...?
YOU LOOK...
...JUST LIKE HIM.
"MINATO" ...?
NO WONDER. YOU'RE HIS...
?
?

DODGE
SPLASH
BUH.


WHAD
SHE'S THE VEIL WOMAN'S ALLY...!


WHA ...?
FU-FU. CUT THAT OUT.
MADAME LAND-LADY!!

GET AWAY FROM THAT WOMAN, MINATO!!


...HERE AT IZUMO INN.
HAVEN'T I TOLD YOU? I WON'T TOLERATE VIOLENCE...

...BEEN A WHILE, MIYA.
SO THIS IS IZUMO INN, HUH?
YOU TOO.
YOU KNOW THAT, KAZEHANA.
YEAH, MIYA...
DID YOU BRING HER ALONG, UZUME-SAN?
MY MEMORY'S HAZY, THOUGH.
I SUPPOSE YOU BOTH DRANK TOO MUCH, WOUND UP HERE...
...AND STUMBLED INTO THE WRONG ROOM.
IS SHE A FRIEND OF YOURS?
!
MADAME LAND-LADY.
A WHILE BACK...
...SHE USED TO BE A RESIDENT HERE.

AH... HEH HEH.
SORRY FOR ALL THIS TROUBLE SO EARLY IN THE MORNING.
WE HAPPENED TO MEET YESTER-DAY.
AH-HA-HA, YEAH.
...YOU TOO ARE ACQUAINTED WITH THIS ONE?
DOES THIS MEAN ...
JUST PLAY ALONG, YEAH?
MM-HM. GOT IT.
NO. 10, "UZUME"...
...WOULD ONCE MORE LIKE TO CHALLENGE YOU TO BATTLE!

MIN YA

#3
WHIRL
YOU WON'T GET AWAY.
HOLD ON... WAIT!
BETTER GO SOMEWHERE TO FIX THAT.
LOOKS LIKE MY BUZZ HAS WORN OFF.
NO THANKS.
TOO ANNOY-ING.

BAM

!
TOUCH
SWF
THAT'S GAME, SET, MATCH.
...SEEMS LIKE SOMETHING'S DRIVING YOU.
SO HOW ABOUT WE MAKE A DEAL?
BUT I CAN'T...
I CAN'T GO DOWN JUST YET...!!

...AND YOU TREAT ME TO A DRINK. ♡
I'LL OVERLOOK THIS NASTINESS...
...A DEAL?
YES.
.....
BOOZE. ♥ BOOZE. ♥
AW, DON'T BE LIKE THAT.
I WAS BEING SERIOUS, AND YOU TREAT IT LIKE A JOKE...
HOLD ON... THAT'S JUST...

Chapter 36: Two on a Snowy Day

ON THAT DAY, MY WORLD BECAME WHITE AND COLD.

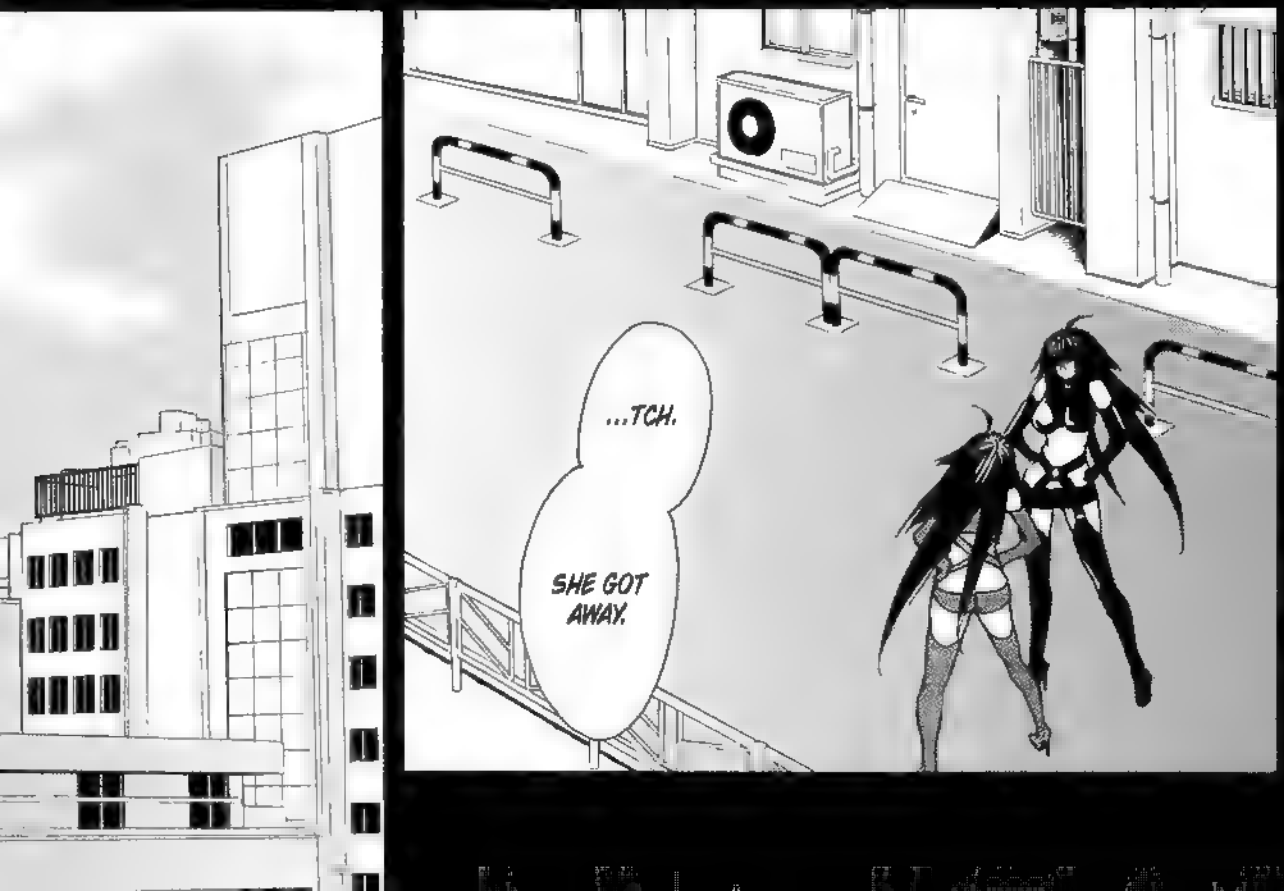
HAA...

I WANDERED TEITO, SEARCHING FOR MY ASHIKABI-SAMA.
NUMB FROM THE COLD, I ENDED UP DROPPING MY MBI CASH CARD SOME-WHERE.
COME BACK HERE, YOU.

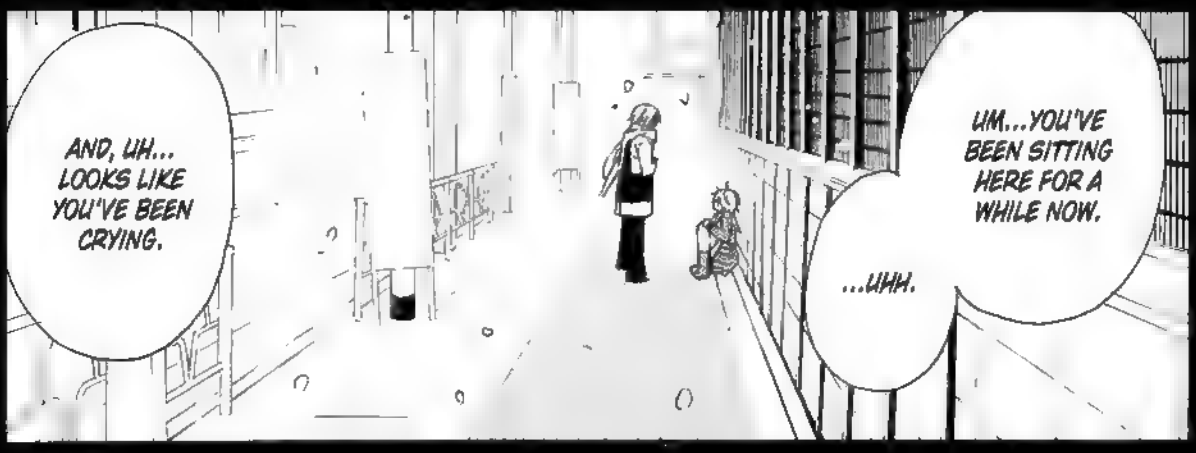
HIKARIIII.
KIND OF SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE IMPLYING THAT WE SUFFER A LOT.
JUST COME QUIETLY AND LET US TAKE YOU OUT!!
IF WE CEASE YOUR FUNCTIONING BEFORE YOU'RE WINGED, YOU'LL NEVER HAVE TO SUFFER AT THE HANDS OF AN ASHIKABI.

TRIP
THAT DAY, I WAS BEING CHASED BY THESE TWO MEAN-LOOKING SEKIREI.

BI-IIEHHH.
BI—
SPLAT
AH.
WAHH.
AHH.
EH.
I MEAN, WE ARE CHASING YOU, BUT.
YOU OKAY?
COME ON... WHOA.


...TCH.
SHE GOT AWAY.

HIC.
WAHH.
EH.
HIC.
I'M NO GOOD. NO GOOD. NO GOOD.
ALL I COULD EVER DO WAS CRY.
I DIDN'T HAVE THE STRENGTH TO FIGHT OTHER SEKIREI.
HEY.
GURGLE
I'M...SO HUNGRY...



BAG: MEAT BUNS

HA-HA...
EAT UP. BEFORE THEY GET COLD.
SOB
WAHH.
WHOA, WHY'RE YOU CRYING!?
THOSE MEAT BUNS WERE SO WARM.
SO VERY, VERY WARM...

BADUM
RIGHT... SEE YA.
BADUM
TUG
F—
BADUM
BADUM
BADUM
EH?
FOUND YOU.
MY ASHIKABI-SAMA...

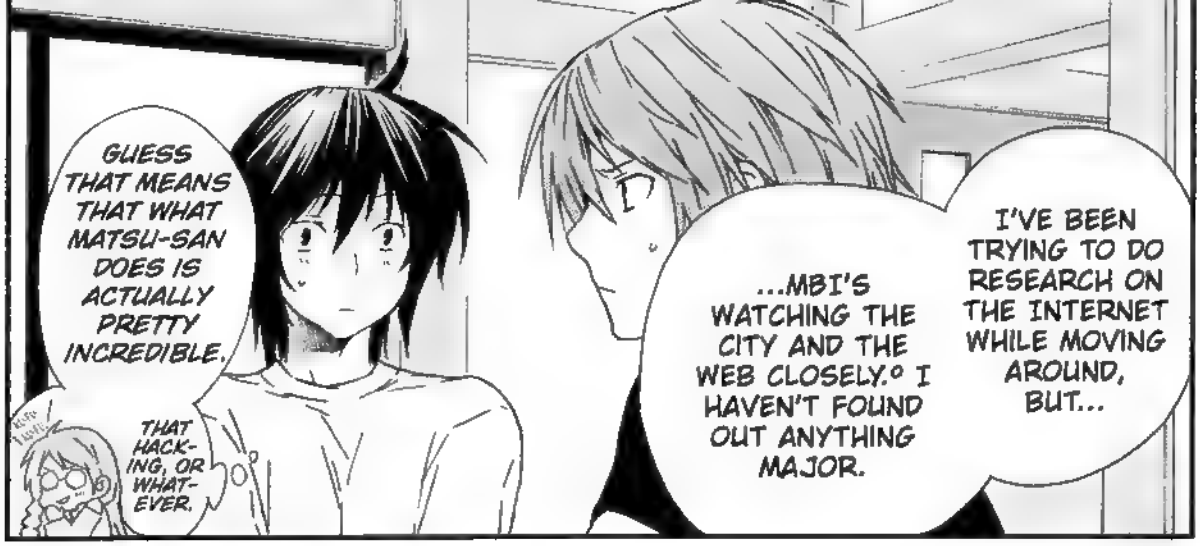
WHAT A WONDERFUL STORY! ♡♡
AWWWW! ♡

HER NAME'S KAZEHANA-SAN.
I THINK IF WE TELL HER ABOUT THE PLAN TO ESCAPE TEITO...
SHE SHOWED UP DRUNK THE OTHER DAY...
HUH? WHO'S THIS?

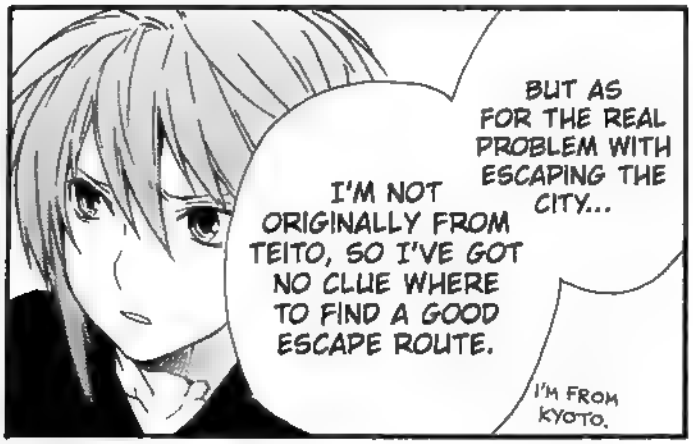
AWWW. YOU'RE ELOPING!?
BIG SIS WOULD LOVE TO HELP YOU OUT.

INDEED, SEKIREI ARE MEANT TO LIVE ON LOVE.
AND THE PART WHEN YOU GRABBED HIS SCARF! IS PASSION BLOOMING, HERE!?
PASS-ION?

GRAB
MY NAME'S KUNO.
IT'S ELOPE OR BUST!!
WE SEKIREI ARE DESTINED TO LOVE AND BE LOVED. WE LIVE FOR LOVE!!
THERE'S NO SHAME IN NOT FIGHTING, NO-GOOD-CHAN.
I'M AN UNWINGED SEKIREI, SO I ANSWER TO NO ONE.
I THINK I MAY BE ABLE TO ASSIST YOU.
... HMPH.
EH-HEH-HEH. I WAS IN SUCH A RUSH TO MEET MY ASHIKABI-SAMA...
...I MUST HAVE LEFT THE CARD BEHIND.
HUH? BUT YOU DIDN'T GET YOUR CASH CARD UNTIL WE WERE ALREADY SETTLED, MUSUBI-CHAN.
THAT'S NOT IT!!
NO NEED TO BE EMBARRASSED, DEAR. ♡
ST-STOP SAYING "ELOPE"!!
EVER SINCE PHASE TWO BEGAN, IT'S BEEN ALL WE COULD DO TO RUN FROM OTHER SEKIREI.
ANYWAY, I BECAME HER ASHIKABI AFTER THAT...


I'VE BEEN TRYING TO DO RESEARCH ON THE INTERNET WHILE MOVING AROUND, BUT...
...MBI'S WATCHING THE CITY AND THE WEB CLOSELY.° I HAVEN'T FOUND OUT ANYTHING MAJOR.
GUESS THAT MEANS THAT WHAT MATSU-SAN DOES IS ACTUALLY PRETTY INCREDIBLE.
THAT HACK-ING, OR WHAT-EVER.

AH...RIGHT. MBI'S GOT THE STATIONS, AIRPORTS, AND MAIN ROADS COVERED.
AND YEAH. I'M NOT FROM AROUND HERE EITHER...


BUT AS FOR THE REAL PROBLEM WITH ESCAPING THE CITY...
I'M NOT ORIGINALLY FROM TEITO, SO I'VE GOT NO CLUE WHERE TO FIND A GOOD ESCAPE ROUTE.
I'M FROM KYOTO.

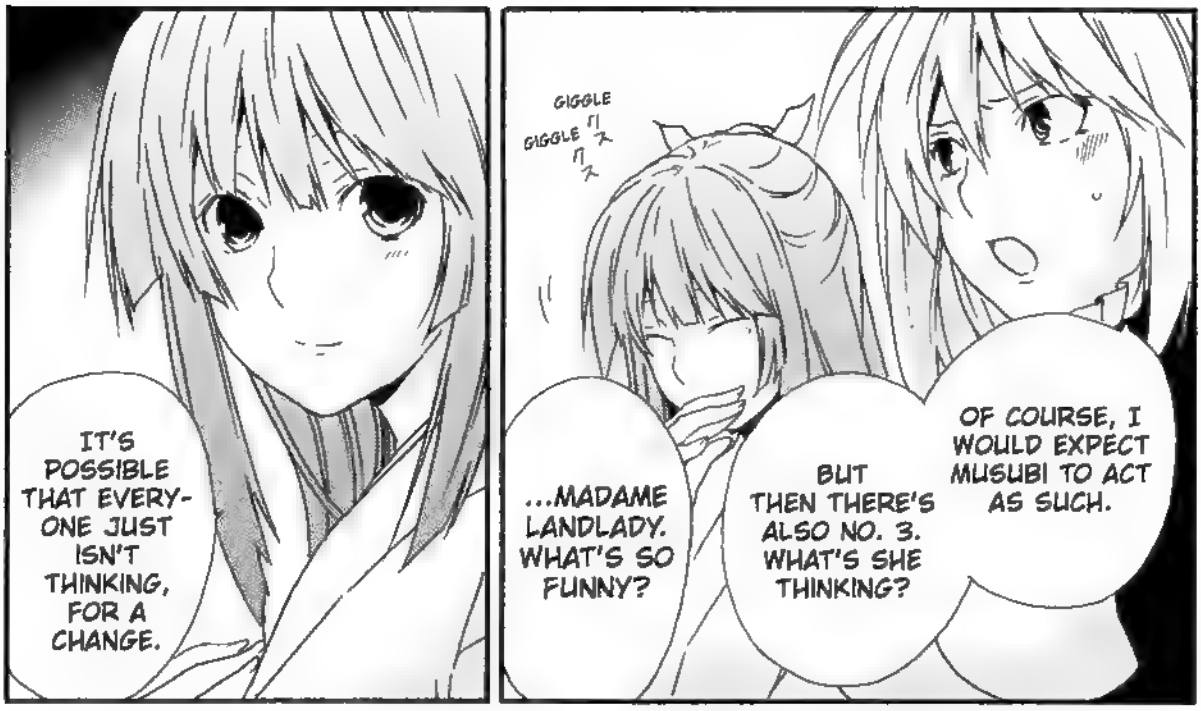
THEN THERE'S THE MATTER OF THOSE CHASING AFTER KUNO-SAN.
THE LIGHT-NING TWINS.
THOSE TWO RUN INTO EVERYBODY, I GUESS.
SOMEONE WHO'S IN ON THE SEKIREI PLAN AND WHO ALSO KNOWS THEIR WAY AROUND TEITO...
WONDER WHO COULD HELP US...

AH.
... SEKIREI ...?
THOSE LIGHT-NING...

POUT
ムスッ

MADAME LAND-LADY.
KU IS A WAGTAIL TODAY.
OH? TSUKIUMI-SAN?
YOU DIDN'T GO WITH SAHASHI-SAN EARLIER?

WHAT COULD MINATO POSSIBLY BE THINKING?
I SIMPLY CANNOT BELIEVE IT!
NOT ONLY WILL THEY NOT FIGHT, BUT THEY'VE SHAMELESSLY DECIDED TO FLEE TEITO. AND HE'S HELPING THEM?


IT'S POSSIBLE THAT EVERY-ONE JUST ISN'T THINKING, FOR A CHANGE.
GIGGLE
GIGGLE
...MADAME LANDLADY. WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
BUT THEN THERE'S ALSO NO. 3. WHAT'S SHE THINKING?
OF COURSE, I WOULD EXPECT MUSUBI TO ACT AS SUCH.

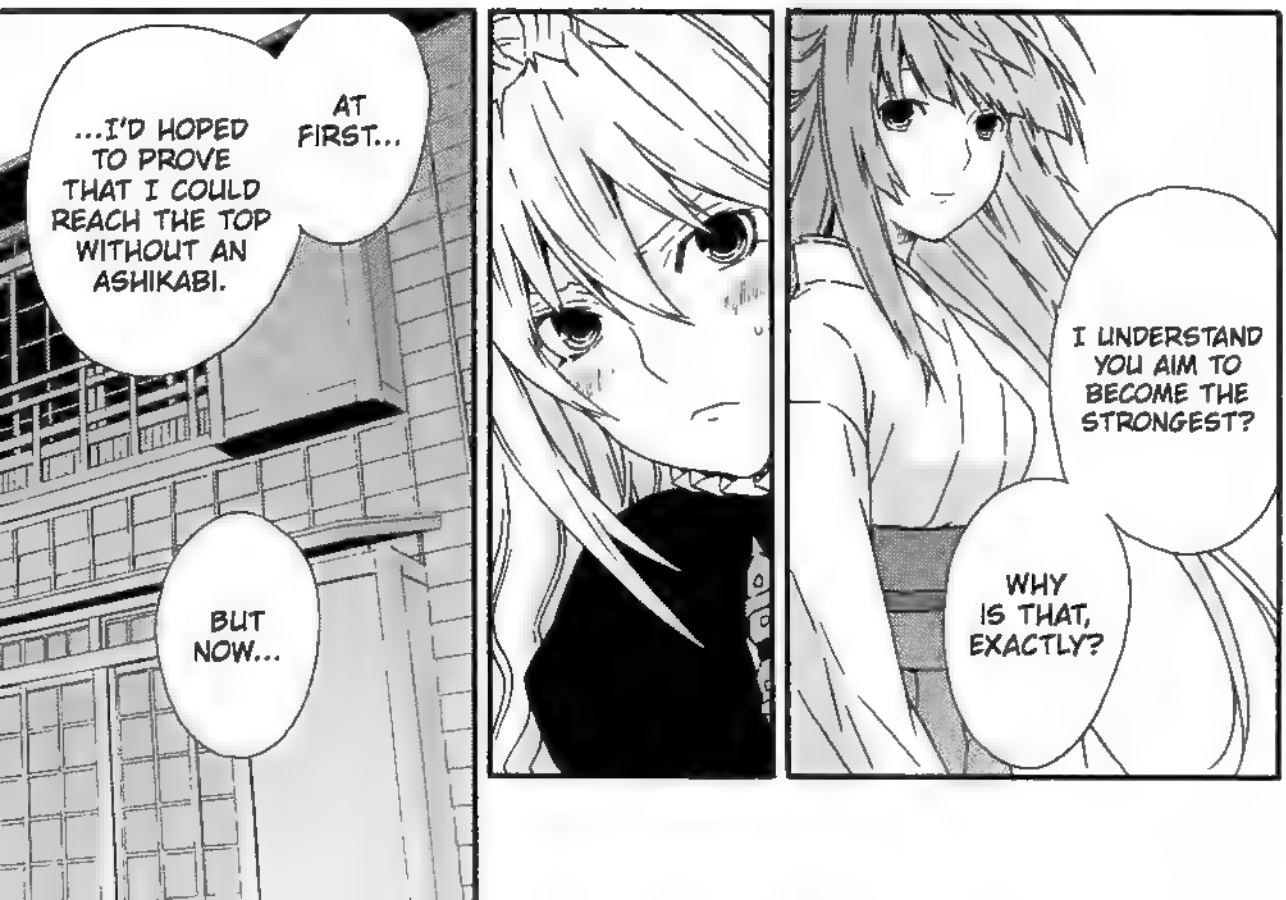
BUT...! WE ARE SEKIREI.
AND AS SEKIREI, IT IS OUR DUTY TO FIGHT ONE ANOTHER.

THEY SIMPLY WANT TO HELP THOSE IN NEED...

SUCH AN IMPULSE IS ONLY NATURAL.

MADAME LAND-LADY!!
M—
AM I CLOSE?
...THAT IT'S UNFAIR FOR ONE WHO DOESN'T FIGHT TO STILL ENJOY A PARTNERSHIP WITH HER SEKIREI!?
TSUKIUMI-SAN, ARE YOU SAYING...

...ON THE OTHER HAND, PERHAPS WHAT I FEEL FOR HER IS ENVY.
NO. 95'S WEAKNESS INFURIATES ME, BUT...
WELL, IT MAY BE.
NO... THAT'S NOT IT...


...I'D HOPED TO PROVE THAT I COULD REACH THE TOP WITHOUT AN ASHIKABI.
AT FIRST...
BUT NOW...
I UNDERSTAND YOU AIM TO BECOME THE STRONGEST?
WHY IS THAT, EXACTLY?

RIGHT. OF COURSE. U-FU-FU.
Y-YOU HAD BETTER NOT TELL MINATO I SAID THAT.

W-WITH HIM...
I FIGHT TO BECOME THE STRONGEST ...
...SO THAT I MAY REMAIN WITH MINATO...!

COME TO THE BACK-YARD...
...AND SHOW ME WHAT YOU CAN DO.
I'LL LEAVE THE LAUNDRY TO YOU, KU-CHAN.

WHY DON'T I TRAIN YOU TOO, THEN, TSUKIUMI-SAN?
IT'S HARDLY FAIR IF MUSUBI-SAN IS THE ONLY ONE UNDER MY WING.

RING
RING
MADAME LAND-LADY...
WHO ON EARTH ARE YOU?

OH?
SAHASHI-SAN?

RING
RING
GIVE ME A MOMENT, TSUKIUMI-SAN.
MY, MY. THE PHONE?

YES? THIS IS ASAMA.

DING-DONG
DING-DONG
DING-DONG

TUG
UWAHH.
LEAVE IT ALONE. PROBABLY JUST PAN-HANDLERS FROM NHK OR SOMETHING.
...THEY SURE ARE NOISY...

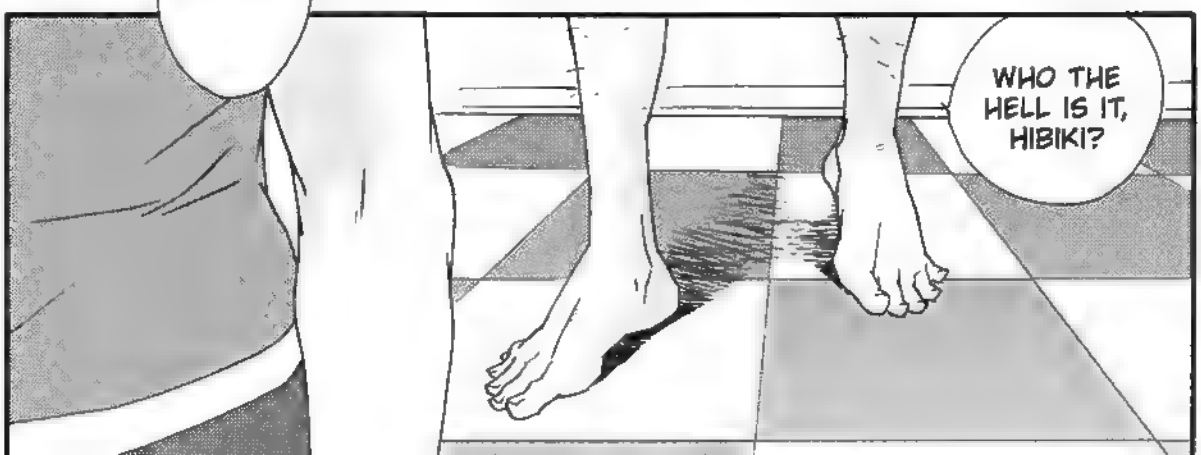
SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE'S HERE.

C'MON. LET'S DO IT.
HEY... KNOCK IT OFF, SEO.
GET A GRIP...

12
...HUH?
YOU'RE...

CRACKLE
CRACKLE
12
YOU PISS ME OFF.

UM... IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR MONEY, WE DON'T HAVE ANY...
CLICK
YES?


WHO THE HELL IS IT, HIBIKI?

AH-HA-HA. ...UM.
SORRY FOR NOT CALLING.

HUNH?
WHAT'S UP?

Chapter 37: The State of Teito

SO...
P
TWINGE
BRATS?
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
THESE TWO BRATS WANNA ESCAPE FROM TEITO. I GOT THAT MUCH.
BUT WHY'RE YOU HERE?
WELL... HA-HA.

GUESS I DID TELL YOU TO LOOK ME UP IF YOU WERE EVER IN TROUBLE.
WELL, YEAH.
...TCH.
I COULDN'T THINK OF ANY-ONE ELSE WHO MIGHT HELP...
YOU SEEM PRETTY KNOWLEDGABLE ABOUT TEITO, SEO-SAN, AND YOU ALSO KNOW ABOUT THE SEKIREI PLAN.

I'LL HELP YOU OUT.
REALLY ?
'COS LEMME TELL YOU— I'M NOT A FAN OF THE WAY MBI'S GOT TEITO UNDER LOCKDOWN EITHER.
FINE, THEN.

SURE.
WELL, Y'KNOW.

CHA-CHING

HUH? AIN'T YOU IN MIDDLE SCHOOL?
D-DON'T CALL ME A KID.
RING
Hello ?
I'M 20 YEARS OLD.
HI, IT'S SAHASHI.

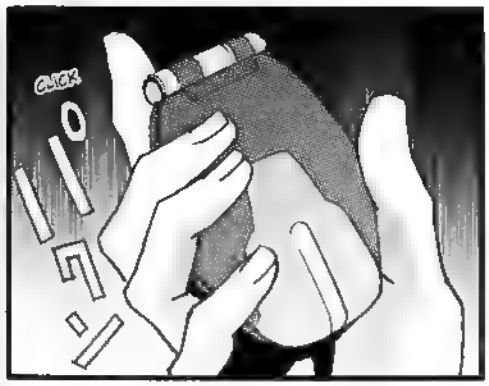
SEO-SAN.
?

BEEP
BEEP
YOU'RE MAKING US PAY!?
ADULTS DON'T WORK FOR FREE, Y'SEE.
WOULDN'T EXPECT A KID TO UNDER-STAND.

COME ON, DON'T BULLY ME LIKE THAT.
WHO DID YOU CALL?
SERIOUSLY? NO MORE FREE FOOD? NO WAY. THAT'S TOO HARSH.
SHIT. YOU'RE A MASSIVE SADIST. JUST LIKE TAKEHITO.
KAORU-SAN.....
SHUDDER

...THE LAND-LADY.
AH! RIGHT!
NO ONE CAN BEAT HER. ♡
AH, FINE, FINE. GOT IT, ALREADY!
I'LL HELP 'EM OUT. FOR FREE, EVEN.
WHAP

... GAH...


CLICK

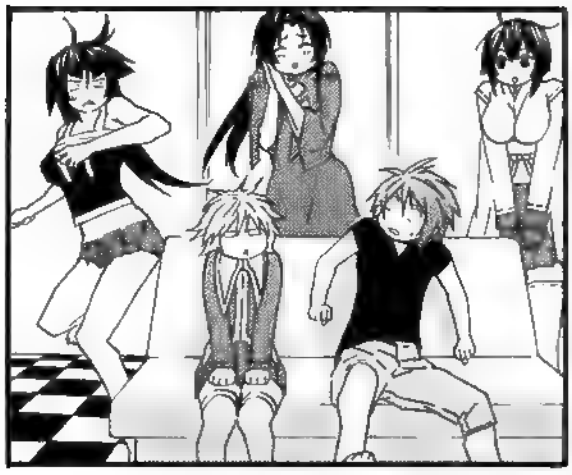
TWITCH
HEY, YOU.
WHAT'D HE DO...?

STRAIN
STRAIN
YOUUUU. THAT WAS SOME SNEAKY SHIT RIGHT THERE.
I ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU WERE A SIMPLE, HONEST GUY.
S-SORRY.

LIKE I SAID, EVERYTHING WOULD'VE BEEN EASIER IF YOU'D LET US RETIRE YOU.
PRETTY SURE WE MET BEFORE YOU WERE WINGED.

BUT...
...I MANAGED TO FIND HIM.

YOU DIDN'T JUST ACCEPT YOUR FATE, KUNO-SAN.
THAT'S HOW YOU WERE ABLE TO FIND SHIGI-SAN.

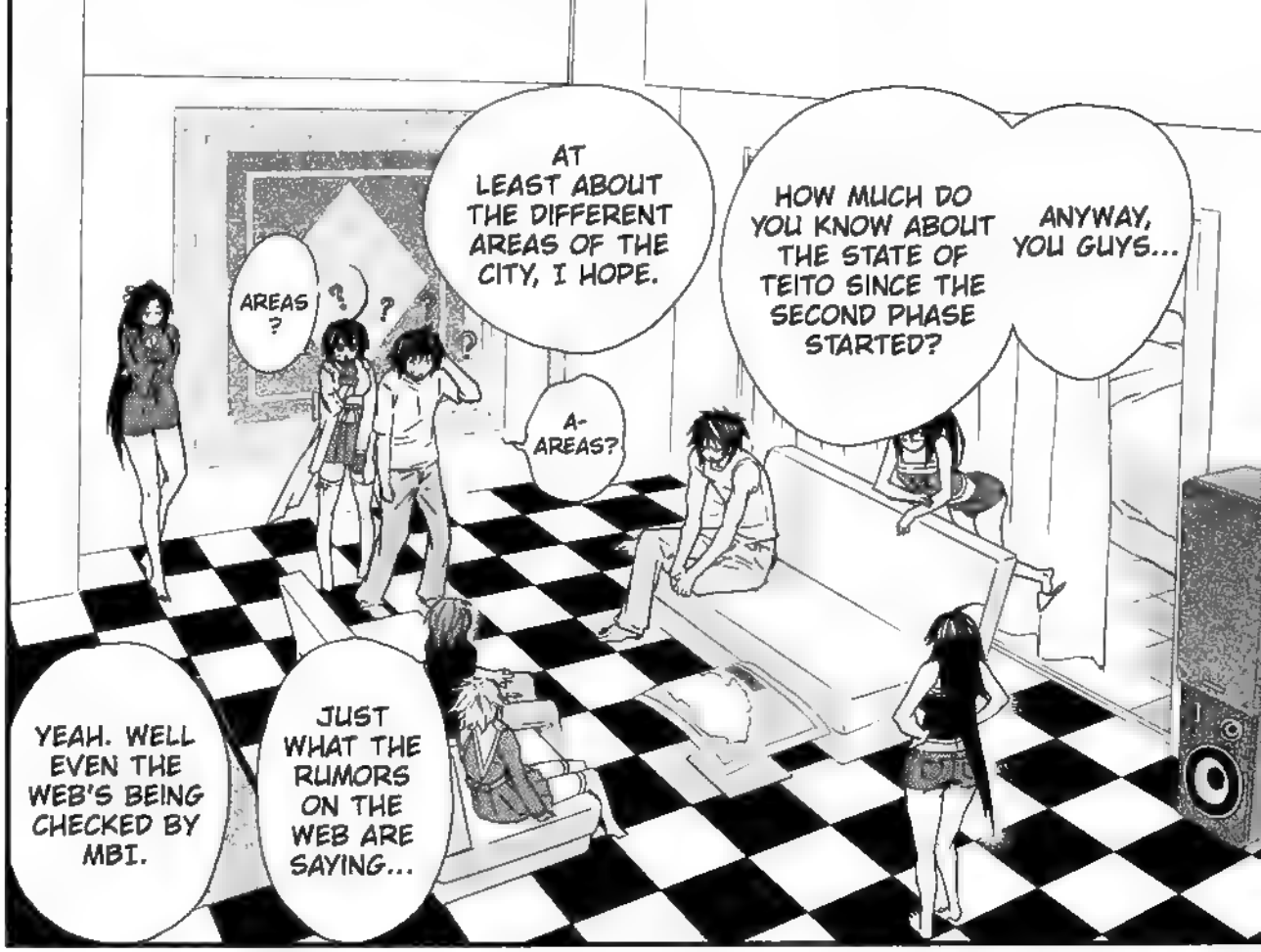


KAZEHANA-SAN...WHEN DID YOU GET HERE.....?
YOU EVEN TOOK MUSUBI BY SURPRISE SOMEHOW.
I HID MY PRESENCE IN ORDER TO OBSERVE.

YES, THAT'S LOVE FOR YOU!!
LOVE MAKES SEKIRE1 STRONGER. YOU KNOW.

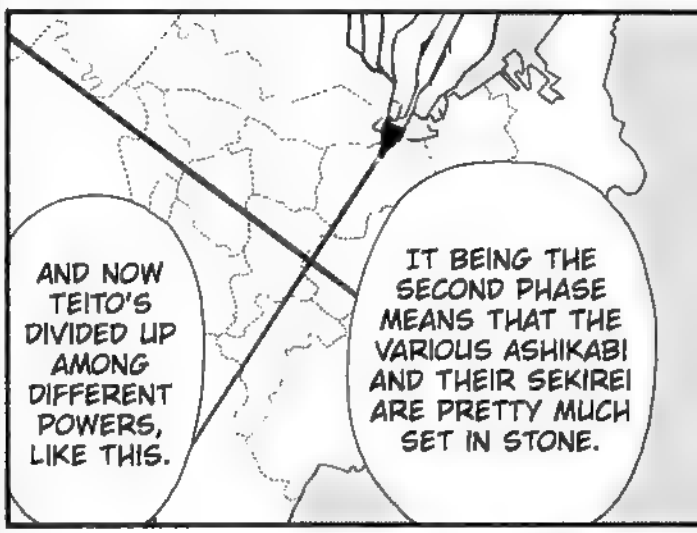
SLAM
HEY, HEY, HEY!!

I'M SURE IT'LL REALLY TICK OFF MBI.
I'M NOT CRAZY ABOUT DOING ANYTHING FOR FREE, BUT...
...IF I SAY YOU'RE GETTING OUTTA TEITO, YOU'RE GETTING OUTTA TEITO.
OUCH.
AND MADAME LANDLADY'S HUSBAND WAS SEO-SAN'S FRIEND.
RIGHT... KAZEHANA-SAN USED TO LIVE AT IZUMO INN.
YOU KNOW EACH OTHER ...?
OH? WHY'RE YOU HERE, KAZEHANA?
FU-FU. I'M FOLLOWING THIS STORY. ♡


AREAS?
AT LEAST ABOUT THE DIFFERENT AREAS OF THE CITY, I HOPE.
A-AREAS?
HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE STATE OF TEITO SINCE THE SECOND PHASE STARTED?
ANYWAY, YOU GUYS...
YEAH. WELL EVEN THE WEB'S BEING CHECKED BY MBI.
JUST WHAT THE RUMORS ON THE WEB ARE SAYING...

YOU'VE GOT FOUR AREAS SPREADING OUT TO THE NORTH, SOUTH, EAST, AND WEST FROM THE MBI BUILDING IN THE CENTER.
NORTH ASIDE, THERE'RE THREE ASHIKABI WHO'VE GOT CONTROL OF THE OTHER THREE AREAS.
TEITO METROPOLITAN MAP

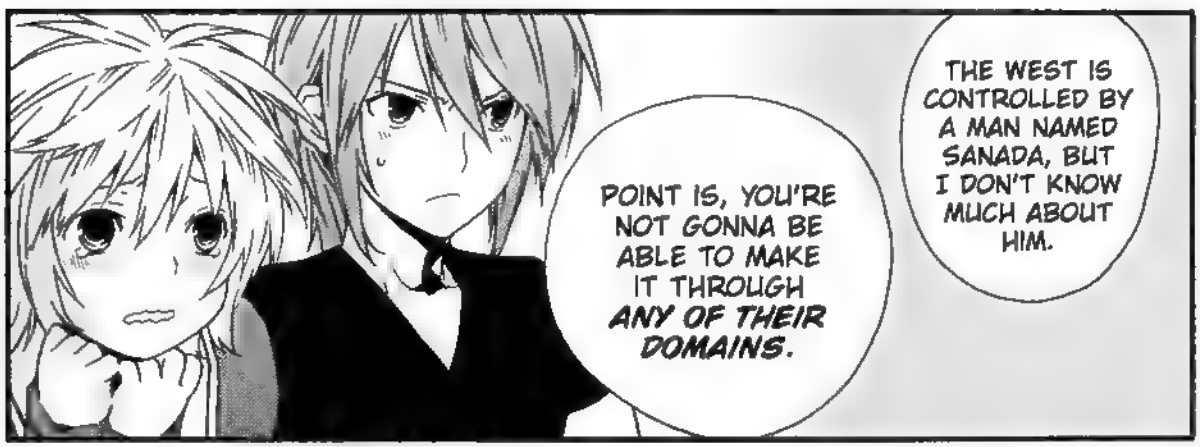
ALL RIGHT. LET'S START THERE, THEN.


AND NOW TEITO'S DIVIDED UP AMONG DIFFERENT POWERS, LIKE THIS.
IT BEING THE SECOND PHASE MEANS THAT THE VARIOUS ASHIKABI AND THEIR SEKIREI ARE PRETTY MUCH SET IN STONE.

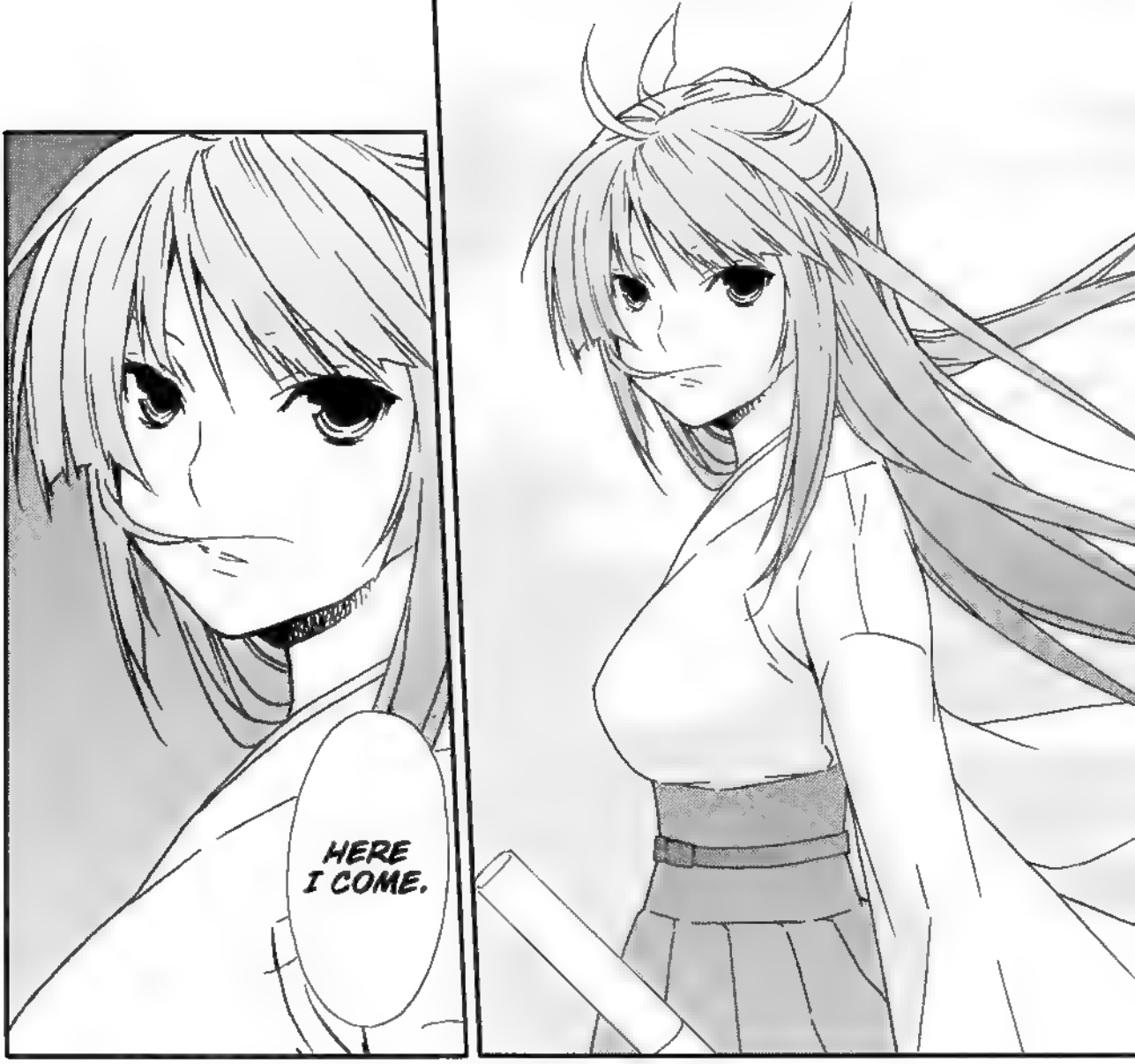
AREAS... POWERS...
DIVING RIGHT BACK INTO THE WORLD OF "CRAP I DON'T KNOW ABOUT."
WHO KNEW ALL THIS WAS EVEN HAPPENING HERE IN TEITO...?
YOU'VE ACTUALLY GOT HISTORY WITH ONE OF 'EM.
EH!?
THE GUY WHO WAS AFTER THE "GIRL OF GREEN"...
ANOTHER ASHIKABI I KNOW?
...AND ASHIKABI TO NO. 43...
...WHO YOU GUYS BEAT.
HAYATO MIKOGAMI.
THE SOUTH IS HIS DOMAIN.

THEN, IN THE EAST, THERE'S IZUMI HIGA.
THE NUMBER OF SEKIREI EACH OF THESE GUYS'VE GOT IS NO JOKE.

I'VE MET HIGA A FEW TIMES MYSELF. HE'S ACTUALLY OPPOSED TO THE WHOLE SEKIREI PLAN.
AND HE'S GOT A FEW OTHER ASHIKABI UNDER HIM.
ANYWAY, NOT REALLY A GUY YOU WANNA PISS OFF.


THE WEST IS CONTROLLED BY A MAN NAMED SANADA, BUT I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT HIM.
POINT IS, YOU'RE NOT GONNA BE ABLE TO MAKE IT THROUGH ANY OF THEIR DOMAINS.

UM... EXCUSE ME.
YOU ONLY MENTIONED THREE ASHIKABI JUST NOW, SO...
...SHOULDN'T TEITO BE DIVIDED INTO THREE AREAS.....?
?
AH. IZUMO INN IS IN THE NORTH, ISN'T IT? ♡
NO ONE DARES MESS WITH HER.
WELL, IN THE NORTH ...
...LIVES A SCARY, SCARY HANNYA.


HERE I COME.

JUST WHAT I WANT TO HEAR!

WATER FESTIVAL!
HMPH... YOU'VE WORKED ON THIS ONE.
BUT A TECHNIQUE OF THIS CALIBER...
STEP
WHAM

SMILE
WHAT THE!?
SLASH

BOOM

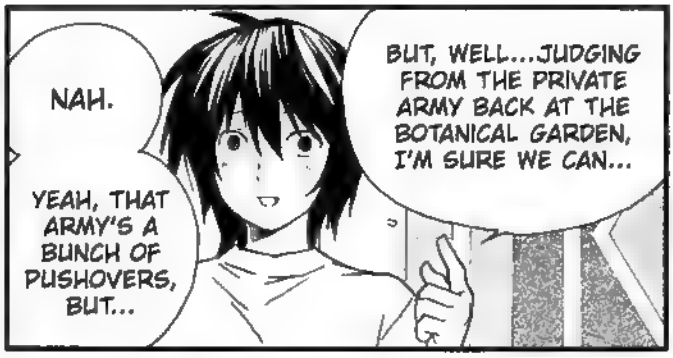
YOU HAVE FAR TOO MANY OPENINGS.

...HUH?
CLINK
BURST

YOU TOO HAVE A WAYS TO GO, TSUKIUMI-SAN.
FU-FU.
MADAME LANDLADY. ...YOU...
WHO ARE YOU.....?
U-FU-FU. I HAVE MUCH TO TEACH YOU, IT SEEMS.
YOU HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT HOW TO USE YOUR POWER.

WELL.
THE BIGGEST PROBLEM IS STILL MBI ITSELF.
AND THAT HANNYA WON'T BOTHER US IF WE DON'T BOTHER HER.
WHICH MEANS THE WAY OUTTA TEITO IS THE NORTH.
GOT IT?
SOUTH, EAST, AND WEST ARE NO-GOS.

...I'M TALKING ABOUT MBI'S DOGS.


NAH.
YEAH, THAT ARMY'S A BUNCH OF PUSHOVERS, BUT...
BUT, WELL...JUDGING FROM THE PRIVATE ARMY BACK AT THE BOTANICAL GARDEN, I'M SURE WE CAN...

THEY PRETTY MUCH EXIST TO PURGE SEKIREI.
AND THEY'RE SCARY STRONG.
THERE'S A GROUP OF SEKIREI CALLED THE "DISCIPLINARY SQUAD."

THERE'S THE "BLUE SEKIREI."
THE "RED SEKIREI."
AND...
...THE "BLACK SEKIREI."

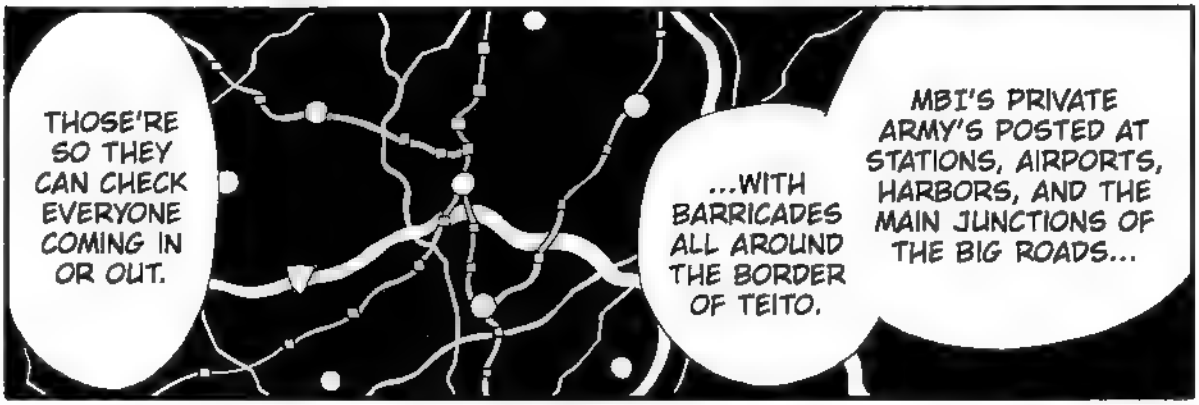
I'LL FIGHT!
...BUT I BET RED OR BLUE WOULD COME SWOOPING DOWN IF SOMEONE EVER TRIED TO LEAVE TEITO.
I HEAR THE BLACK ONE DOESN'T LEAVE MBI HQ TOO OFTEN...

LET ME...
...FIGHT THEM!!

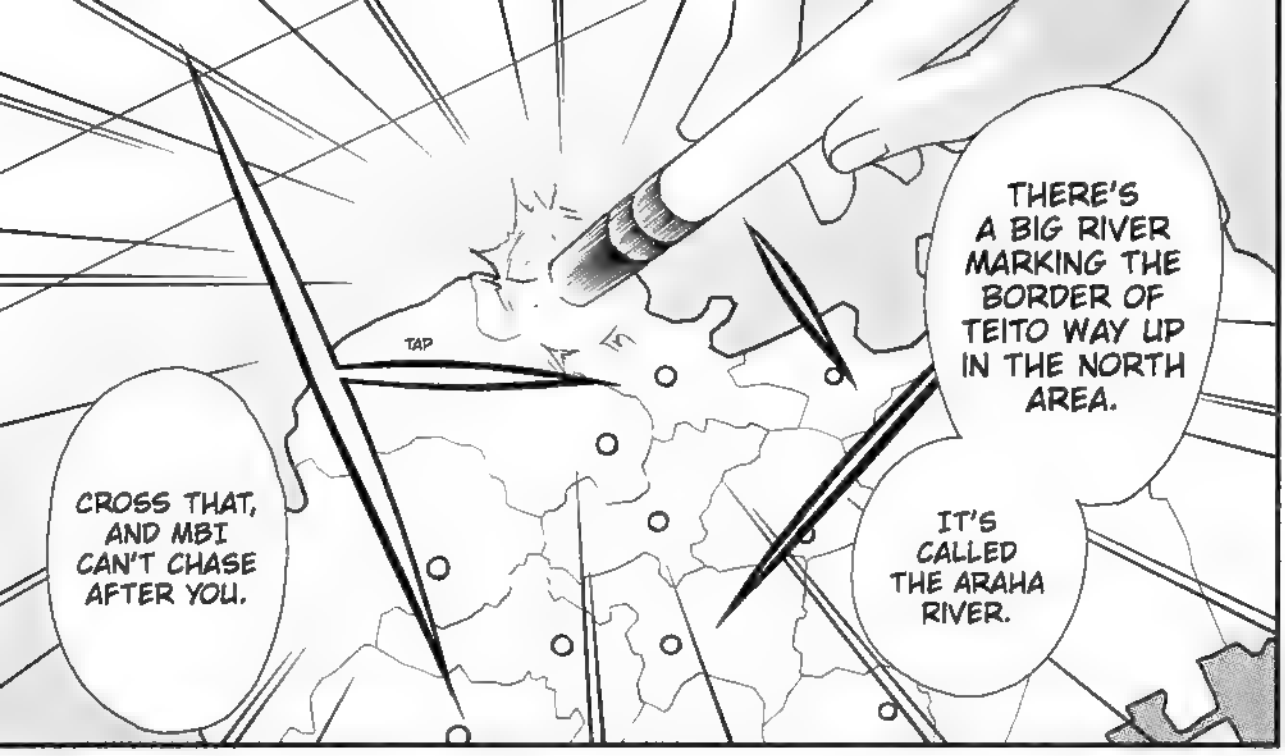
MUSUBI-CHAN.

Chapter 38: Reacting Sekirei Crest

MUSUBI-CHAN.
LET ME...
...FIGHT THEM!!
THAT'S AN OPTION, BUT...
...YOUR BEST SHOT IS GETTING THESE TWO OUTTA HERE WITHOUT BEING SPOTTED AT ALL.
AND FOR THAT...


MBI'S PRIVATE ARMY'S POSTED AT STATIONS, AIRPORTS, HARBORS, AND THE MAIN JUNCTIONS OF THE BIG ROADS...
...WITH BARRICADES ALL AROUND THE BORDER OF TEITO.
THOSE'RE SO THEY CAN CHECK EVERYONE COMING IN OR OUT.

GRIN
BUT EVEN WITH ALL THAT, THERE'S A PLACE YOU CAN SLIP OUT.


THERE'S A BIG RIVER MARKING THE BORDER OF TEITO WAY UP IN THE NORTH AREA.
IT'S CALLED THE ARAHA RIVER.
TAP
CROSS THAT, AND MBI CAN'T CHASE AFTER YOU.

W-WE'RE SUPPOSED TO SWIM ACROSS!?
B-BUT I...
...CAN'T SWIIIM.
I NEVER SAID SWIM, DUMMY.
THEY'D SPOT YOU IN A SECOND, AND IT'D BE GAME OVER. TOO RISKY.

SO WE'LL USE A BRIDGE, THEN...?
BUT WOULDN'T A PLACE LIKE THAT HAVE STRICT MBI CHECK-POINTS...?
THERE'S ONE THAT'S PERFECT, THOUGH.
IT'S FAR FROM OTHER BRIDGES. THEY'D HAVE A HARD TIME CHASING AFTER.
IT'S A BRIDGE THAT MBI'S NOT EVEN GUARDING.

THINK ABOUT IT. WE'RE THREE ASHIKABI, ACTING ALL SNEAKY HERE.
TOMOR-ROW!?
THIS ALL GOES DOWN TO-MORROW NIGHT!
NOW I'M GONNA EXPLAIN THE PROCESS FOR THIS ESCAPE ROUTE.
SO THE SOONER THIS HAPPENS, THE BETTER.
NO WAY MBI'S NOT GONNA NOTICE THAT.
SORRY...
S...
RUNNING AWAY AT NIGHT, THOUGH...
MY DAD'S GONNA GIVE ME HELL WHEN I SHOW UP BACK HOME.
GUH!?
PINCH
NOW... EVEN YOU... HAVE TO LEAVE TEITO, HARUKA-SAMA...
TH-THIS IS ALL...
... BECAUSE I'M... WEAK.

SO JUST PIPE DOWN AND FOLLOW ME OUTTA HERE!
THAT'S FINE!
YOU'RE MY GIRL, AFTER ALL.

.....
OKAY.

YOU GOT THAT!?
IF SO, THEN STOP CRYING!!

HEY, SAHASHI.

I COULD JUST EAT THEM UP
OHHH, MY.

YOU GOTTA LET THEM STAY AT YOUR PLACE UNTIL TOMORROW NIGHT.
I'LL EXPLAIN TO MIYA-CHAN. LEAVE THAT TO ME.
SURE.

YOU'LL BE PROTECTED BY A REAL SCARY LANDLADY AT THIS GUY'S PLACE.

DON'T WORRY, YOU TWO.

I SUPPOSE I'LL ALSO IMPOSE ON IZUMO INN FOR NOW, THEN.
MADAME LANDLADY IS THE STRONGEST. ♡

AH... S—
SURE.

LOOK AFTER ME, YOUNG MAN. ♡

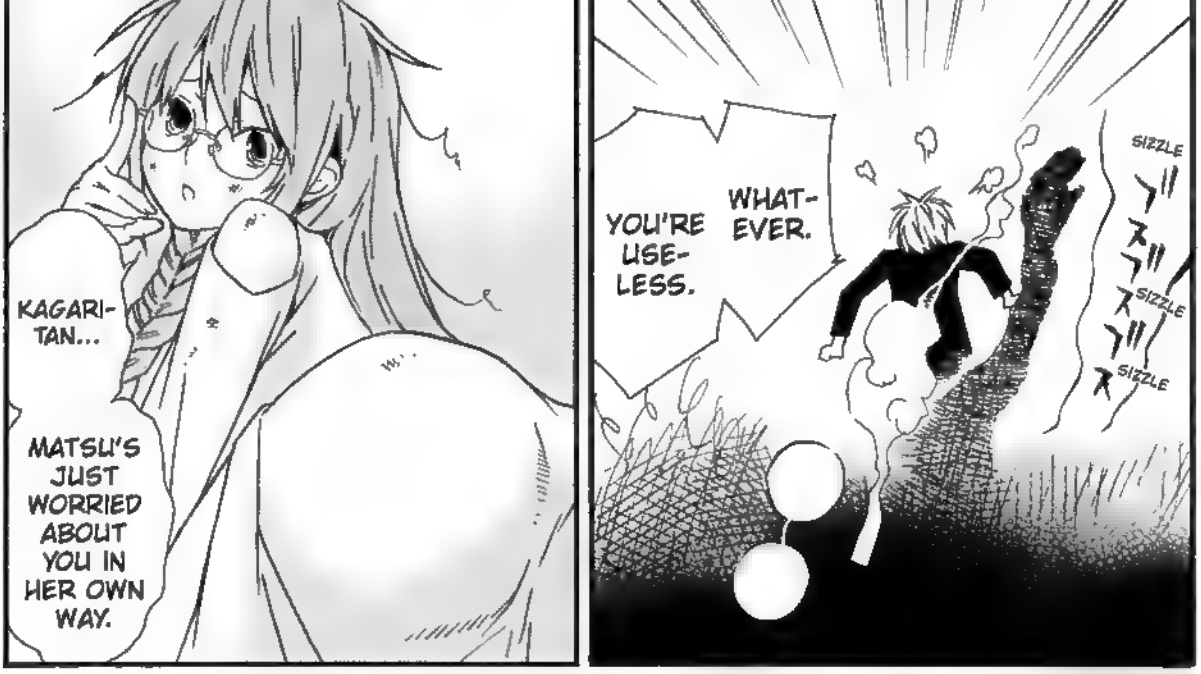
FU-FU. SO INNOCENT. ♡
FU FU FU FU FU.
BLUSH
I REALLY DO SEE THE RESEM-BLANCE.
HE'S GOT... THE SAME JAWLINE... SAME HANDS.....
THROB
MY, MY. MY SEKIREI CREST?
WHAT ARE YOU REACTING TO??
?
?

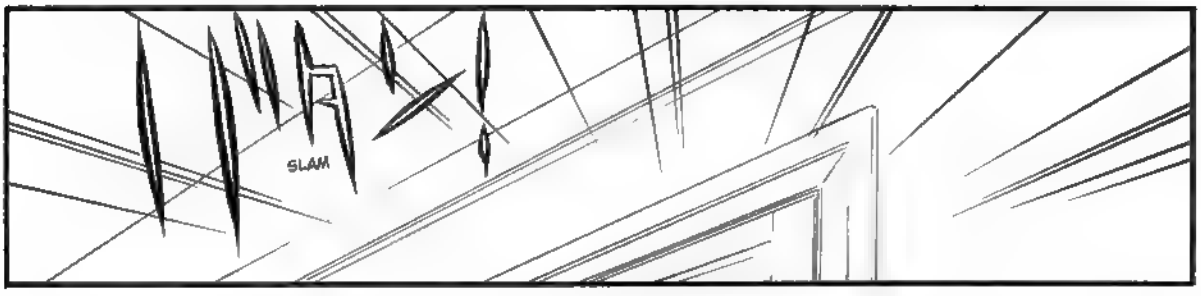
SLAM
SLAM
SLAM
...
MATSU.

I NEED IT.
GIMME.
I ONLY JUST GAVE IT TO YOU.
I'M AFRAID I CAN'T, KAGARI-TAN.

MATSU'S MEDICINE ONLY OFFERS TEMPORARY RELIEF.
IT'S MERELY A MIX OF COMMERCIAL DRUGS, SO IT DOESN'T AGREE WITH YOU, KAGARI-TAN.
...
YOUR BODY STILL ISN'T STABILIZING?

...THIS NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE.
IT'S NOT GOING BACK TO NORMAL.
WRIGGLE
WRIGGLE
わきわき
わきわき
THOSE.
WON'T YOU LET ME TOUCH THEM A BIT...?
BUT IT'S REALLY PAINFUL.
ACTING LIKE IT'S NOT YOUR PROBLEM ...
IN ONE SENSE, IT'S JUST LIKE GROWING PAINS.
LOOM
...BY THE WAY...
FOOM
KYAHH.


KAGARI-TAN...
MATSU'S JUST WORRIED ABOUT YOU IN HER OWN WAY.
YOU'RE USE-LESS.
WHAT-EVER.
SIZZLE
SIZZLE
SIZZLE


SLAM

WHAM
SHIT.
CRUNCH
WALL

GUHH!
.....

IS IT REALLY STARTING TO REACT TO SOME-ONE...!?
I CAN'T BELIEVE... THAT MY BODY.....
SHIT... SHIT...

FWOOM
FWOOM
FWOOM
FWOOM

FWOOM
FWOOM
FWOOM
FWOOM

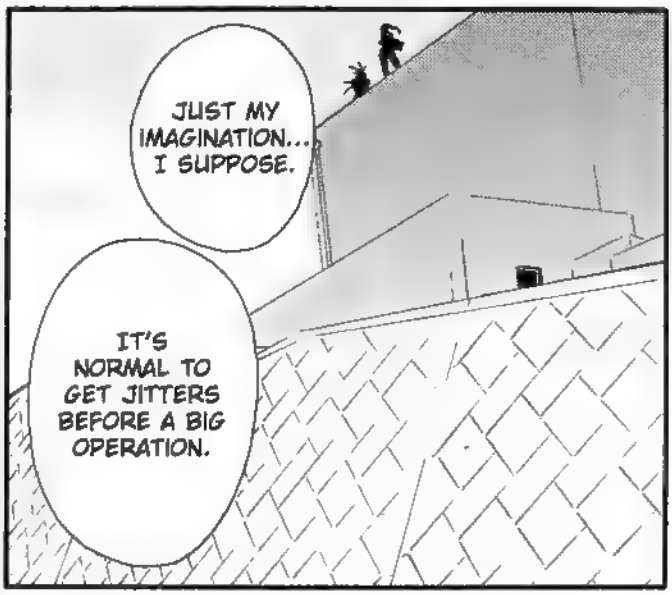
SO THIS IS THE ARAHA RIVER...
REACH THE FAR SHORE, AND YOU'RE NOT IN TEITO ANYMORE ...
...BUT EVEN THOUGH IT'S SO CLOSE...

WELL, WE'VE SEEN IT NOW.
LET'S HEAD HOME.
OKAY.

DON'T WORRY! WE'LL FIGURE IT OUT!
IT FEELS REALLY FAR. Y'KNOW, MUSUBI-CHAN...?

WHAT'S UP, MUSUBI-CHAN?

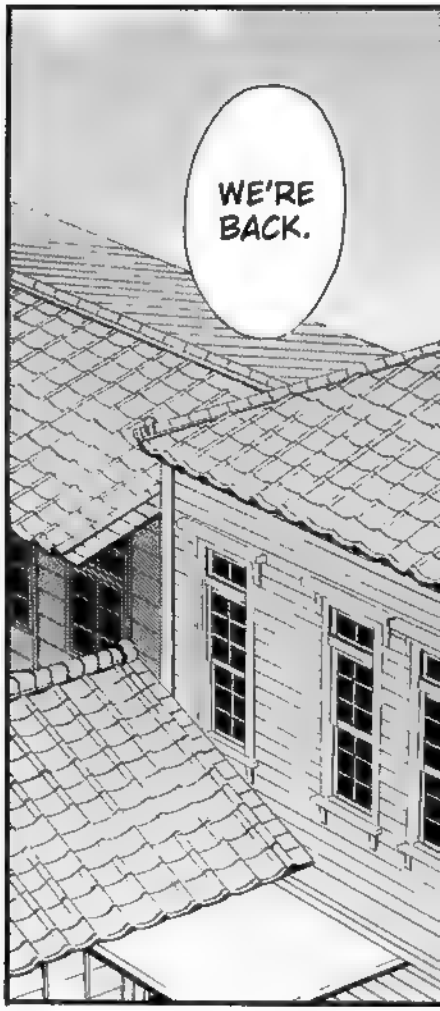
I JUST THOUGHT I SENSED A PRESENCE ...
?
?
?


JUST MY IMAGINATION... I SUPPOSE.
IT'S NORMAL TO GET JITTERS BEFORE A BIG OPERATION.

IT'S JUST AS "BLACK" SAID.
GOOD THING WE TAILED NO. 88.
THAT GIRL'S PLANNING SOMETHING.

HEY, "BLUE."
THIS IS GONNA BE FUN.

WELCOME HOME.


WE'RE BACK.

TRAINING WITH MIYA-TAN OUT BACK.
GLOMP
HMM? WHERE'S TSUKI-UMI?

UMM... CAN WE...
...REALLY STAY HERE TONIGHT?
TR-TRAINING?
LIKE MUSUBI-CHAN DOES?
MUSUBI ALSO...
WANTS TO TRAIN!
YAYYY.
APPARENTLY, SHE'S GETTING BEATEN INTO SHAPE.
TSUKIUMI-TAN'S ALSO A HOT-BLOODED, ATHLETIC TYPE, AFTER ALL.
AND A TSUNDERE.
STEP
STEP
STEP
SPARKLE
YEAH, COME ON IN.
I'LL CALL THE LANDLADY OVER...
SO YOU'RE THE INFAMOUSLY WEAK SEKIREI?
COME AND LET MATSU EXPERIMENT TO DISCOVER HOW WEAK YOU REALLY ARE.
WRIGGLE
WRIGGLE
WRIGGLE
WRIGGLE
WRIGGLE

Sekirei 4 End

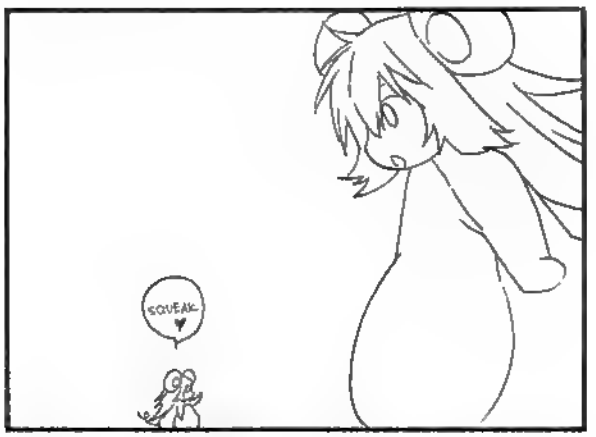
TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 5!!

MYSTERIOUS IZUMO INN

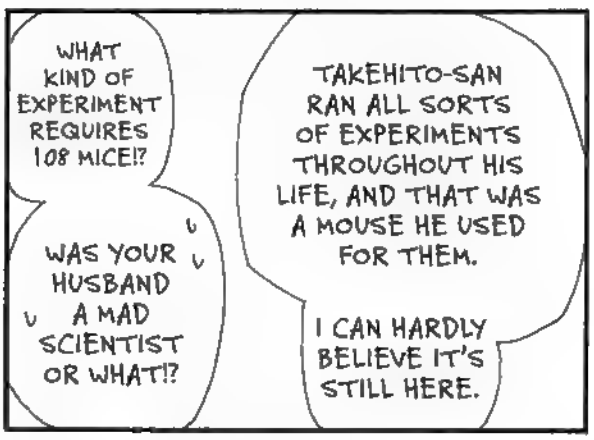
MYSTERIOUS VOLUME-CLOSING 4-PANEL BONUS COMICS

KU'S ON A MYSTERIOUS EXPEDITION

A MYSTERIOUS AND SUDDEN ENCOUNTER



MYSTERIOUSLY, THERE MAY BE 108 IN TOTAL


WHAT KIND OF EXPERIMENT REQUIRES 108 MICE!?
WAS YOUR HUSBAND A MAD SCIENTIST OR WHAT!?
TAKEHITO-SAN RAN ALL SORTS OF EXPERIMENTS THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE, AND THAT WAS A MOUSE HE USED FOR THEM.
I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT'S STILL HERE.

THE MYSTERIES JUST KEEP COMING

IT'S A MYSTERY WHETHER THIS LITTLE SERIES WILL CONTINUE OR NOT.

SEKIREI NO. 88,
MUSUBU.
SEKIREI NO. 09.
GEKKAI.
NO. 02,
SHOU.
HITOSHI
!!
AND THE
LAST ONE,
NO. 108.

RETURN OF THE NIGHTMARE...

KUSANO JUST FEELS LIKE SHE'D BE A HITOSHI.

Translation Notes

Page 101
Kazehana refers to herself as a "big sister" (as do others), but instead of being used literally, it's used as a common way to refer to slightly older women who aren't yet old enough to be called ma'am or granny.

Page 180
The NHK is Japan's public television network, and is known for sending legions of donation collectors to every residence on the grid. There's no penalty for not paying, and claiming that you don't own a TV is usually enough to shoo them away.

Page 185
The hand sign that Seo's making—what Western readers probably know as the "A-OK" sign—actually symbolizes "money" in modern Japanese culture.

Page 193
The ***Hannya*** is a classical Noh theater mask that resembles a horned demon, and is also the intimidating "aura" face that often appears behind Miya when she's angry. Seo's basically giving away her identity, but Minato doesn't make the connection...

Page 219
Tsundere is a common (usually female) character archetype or type of character development seen in many manga series. The *tsun* comes from *tsuntsun*, which translates roughly as "showing contempt or disgust." The *dere*, (from *deredere*), on the other hand, means "outwardly affectionate." *Tsundere* characters can either switch back and forth readily, or gradually make the switch from cold to affectionate, and Tsukiumi is a shining example. In the original text, Matsu makes a pun by saying that Tsukiumi is a *nekketsundere*, combining *nekketsu* (hot-blooded) with *tsundere*.

Page 226
The names for the male versions of Minato's Sekirei are mostly derived from alternate readings of their kanji. Tsukiumi becomes "Gekkai," Musubi becomes "Musubu," and Matsu becomes "Shou." As Minato points out, however, Kusano's new name seems arbitrary...

SEKIREI 4

Sakurako Gokurakuin

Translation: Caleb D. Cook

Lettering: Phil Christie

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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New York, NY 10104

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First Yen Press eBook Edition: May 2016

ISBNs:
978-0-316-27057-1 (ebook)
978-0-316-35810-1 (app)

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